

H I S T O R Y

A N D

A N T I Q U I T I E S

OF THE

COUNTY of NORFOLK.

VOLUME I.

CONTAINING,

(Besides a general Description of the County,
an Index, &c.)

THE HUNDREDS OF

Blofield, Brothercrofs and Clackclose.

Pro me: si merear, in me.

N O R W I C H :

PRINTED BY J. CROUSE, FOR M. BOOTH, BOOKSELLER.

M.DCC.LXXXI.



TO THE
HIGH, PUISSANT, AND MOST NOBLE PRINCE,
CHARLES HOWARD,
DUKE OF NORFOLK;
EARL-MARSHAL, AND HEREDITARY EARL-MARSHAL OF
ENGLAND;
EARL OF ARUNDEL, SURREY, NORFOLK, AND NORWICH,
BARON OF MOWBRAY, HOWARD, SEGRAVE, BREWSE OF
GOWER, FITZ-ALAN, WARREN, CLUN, OSWALDESTRE,
MALTRAVERS, GREYSTOCK, FURNIVAL, VERDON,
LOVETOT, STRANGE OF BLACKMERE, AND
HOWARD OF CASTLE-RISING;
PREMIER DUKE, EARL, AND BARON OF ENGLAND,
NEXT THE BLOOD-ROYAL,
AND CHIEF OF THE ANCIENT AND ILLUSTRIOUS
FAMILY OF THE HOWARDS;
THIS HISTORY OF THE
COUNTRY OF NORFOLK
IS (WITH PERMISSION) MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,
BY HIS GRACE'S
MOST OBEDIENT HUMBLE SERVANTS,
THE EDITORS.

NORWICH,
August 12, 1781.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE EDITORS, impressed by the warmest sense of gratitude for favors received, offer their most sincere thanks to those Gentlemen who have so liberally contributed towards the compilation of the History of Norfolk, by furnishing (according to their several capacities and inclinations) drawings and materials, both ancient and modern: And, as the merit of a publication depends not on the name of the compiler, but rests entirely on the accuracy with which it is executed, the public, it is hoped, will not consider this work less worthy of notice—that it is ANONYMOUS.

To accommodate the public with a useful and ENTERTAINING description of the county, AT A MODERATE EXPENCE, was the grand, the ultimate object of the Editors: How far they have succeeded it would be thought improper for them to judge. This, however, they may with confidence affirm, that neither labor nor expence, on their part, has been spared in executing the whole with accuracy—and with elegance; of which, the vast number of engravings is no inconsiderable proof.

It was the intention of the Editors to have added, by way of Appendix to each hundred, such articles of information as might be communicated to them subsequent to the body of the work; as also, an Errata; but the additional materials were so partial, and the typographical errors such only as unavoidably occur in works of compilation, (which are readily excused and corrected by the judicious reader) that an obtrusion of either was judged unnecessary.

P R E F A C E.

THE Rev. FRANCIS BLOMEFIELD, in his valuable and laborious "Essay towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk," prefixes to the hundred of Diss an *introduction*, giving the first reason, and an account of the Nature and Design of the work; the assistance and encouragement he had received in it, and some very pertinent remarks on its reception. This introduction to his first volume is dated Fersfield, (of which parish he was rector) *March 25, 1736*; but as his own words will convey to our reader a better idea of his plan, and manner of conducting the work, than any we might substitute, the following extracts are offered.

“ And now as to the design in general, which I do not pretend to call a History of Norfolk, but an Essay only towards it, being very sensible that there may be several things of moment in almost every parish, that may be impossible for me to know, or come at; but thus far I may venture to say, that the successions of the lords of the manors, the patrons and incumbents of the churches, the series of the religious, the ancient and present valuations of each parish, are as perfect as my own collections, the original manuscripts and records that I have met with, and the collections of my friends, could possibly make them: whatever pedigrees, or evidences relating to any families of worth, merit, or antiquity in the county, (as far as they concern this history, and have come to my hands) shall be faithfully inserted, together with all the ancient arms and inscriptions that are any where found in the churches, or other places; as also of all public gifts and benefactions that I can meet with, in order

to

to preserve them, as far as can be, from devouring time, and to animate others by those examples, to a worthy emulation of such charitable works, amiable to God and man! For the same reason it is, that I shall be very exact in my descriptions of the churches, chapels, &c. that posterity may know, what signal tributes of honor and reverence our ancestors paid to those holy places which they generously built, richly adorned, and prudently set apart for God's worship: and I shall be as careful as I can, truly to transcribe the original names of places and persons, and not in the least vary the orthography of the ancients, but always represent them as they are in the originals, whether they be right or wrong, false language or true, by which means it will often happen that the same word will be spelled many different ways in one page, and perhaps false language may occur as often, and in such places where inscriptions or evidences are partly illegible, I shall give them as they are, without variation, imagining, that though

they be imperfect, I ought not to omit them, they being designed to perpetuate the memories of our once-flourishing ancestors to future ages."

" And, as to the use of this history, I shall only observe, that the ancient and present lords, patrons, and incumbents, the different customs of the manors, and of livings, are things that will be of use to the present and future proprietors. Not to infist upon the delight and pleasure that many take in historical affairs, which though it may be decried and run down by some, yet it must be acknowledged, that history is the light of truth, and life of memory, as the great orator* formerly observed; and if there be nothing more in it, experience teaches, that by recording the lives and actions of the good, those that come after them are thereby encouraged to imitate their virtues; for nothing so much incites the *mind of man* to an emulation of others, as the report of the noble actions of them that

* Cic. de Orat.

that have gone before him; and on the other side, nothing more affrights people from doing base and wicked actions, than the terrible examples of those who have deservedly suffered the greatest misfortunes, as the just reward of their evil-doings."

" I am well apprized what number of carpers and enemies this work will meet with, but think they must be such, as know not with what difficulty, length of time and expence, the materials for this Essay have been got together. Some perhaps may censure me if they hit on a thing that I have not seen, or perhaps been mis-informed about; others there are, I doubt not, who will think me too particular in many things, and others, perhaps, not particular enough; so that as it is a thing impossible to please all, if it is but approved of by my subscribers, (to whom only I am obliged) I care for nought else, not doubting, but that it will be universally allowed, that there

will

will be much more of the history of this county than was ever published before, and if so, my greatest enemies must allow with the poet:

Est quodam prodire tenus, si non datur ultra,
HOR.

The reverend Author, after much mention of his progress through a world of records, manuscripts, evidences, and authorities, concludes, “ and therefore I hope there will be no such great mistakes, but what the candid reader may well pardon, professing that my chief end is to deliver nothing but truth, with an honorable respect to every one; and thus submitting to my readers courtesy, I shall conclude with the poet:

— *Si quid novissi rectius istis,*
Candidus imperti: si non, his utere mecum.

Besides the use of the whole collections “ of that industrious and perfect antiquary, Peter Le-Neve, Norroy king at arms,”

arms," Mr. Blomefield acknowledges the favors and assistance of the following gentlemen:

The Right Rev. Dr. Thomas Tanner, bishop of St. Asaph, who was many years Chancellor of the diocese of Norwich:—a very learned man, and a great antiquarian

The Worshipful Dr. Nash, Chancellor of Norwich.

Sir Andrew Fountain of Narford, knt.

The Rev. Dr. Hen. Briggs, rector of Holt.

The Rev. James Baldwin, rector of Bunwell and Carleton.

Beaupre Bell, Esq. jun. of Outwell.

The Rev. Charles Barnwell, rector of Beeston, by Mileham.

Anthony Norris, Esq. of Barton.

Dr. Newdigate of Walsingham.

Mr. Thomas Martin of Palgrave in Suffolk.

And the Rev. Charles Parkin, rector of Oxburgh.

Mr. Blomefield lived 'till he reached the 678th page of his third volume, all of

of which was printed at his own house in St. Giles', Norwich, and delivered to subscribers* in monthly numbers.

After the decease of this learned and judicious compiler, the work was continued and finished by Mr. Parkin, who, however, did not live to see it published; for, his manuscripts were obtained by a bookseller at Lynn, and printed in a manner which fully justifies the following remark from the **AUTHOR** and **EDITOR** of the **Essay**:

“ It is impossible in a work of this nature to prevent mistakes and errors made by the author, or the press*; it is therefore humbly requested that the reader will excuse and pardon them, and be of the

* “ If Mr. PARKIN was so conscious of unavoidable *typographical errors*, in a work intended to have been published under his own immediate inspection, it is humbly hoped the public, apprised of the greater difficulty to be correct in a posthumous publication, will be yet *more* candid and indulgent.

THE EDITOR.”

the same humane and candid sentiment with the poet:

————— *Non ego paucis
Offendar maculis, quas aut incuria fudit,
Aut humana paru mœavit natura.*

Hor."

To the above the Editor prefixed Mr. PARKIN'S PREFACE, in which the author expresses himself under great obligations to Dr. Tanner, Dr. Hayter, and Dr. Atwell, for materials and assistances*." His " vouchers and quotations," he says, are from " large collections of antique, original and authentic manuscripts, in public and private libraries, registers, &c. of religious houses; in particular from the voluminous ones of the cathedral church of Norwich." The " records in the Tower of London, in the rolls, pipe-office, those of the escheators, and fines levied in the King's court." And here, C says

* In volume IV. of the ESSAY, the Editor avows his having the assistance and advice of Anthony Norris, Esq. and John Fenn, Esq. F. A. S.

says Mr. Parkin, “ I must not omit the most ancient manuscript of England, *Doomsday-book*, deposited in the Exchequer, the spring and fountain of all English chorography.” Mr. Parkin also mentions the collections of Peter le-Neve, Esq. and Mr. Thomas Martin.

Having said so much on the joint efforts of Blomefield and Parkin to produce FIVE VOLUMES *in folio*, we are now to treat of a period at which the present work took its rise: And, let it be here understood, that whilst we attended to the solicitations and opinions of many gentlemen on the propriety of accommodating the public at large with a New and complete HISTORY of the County of Norfolk, we did by no means contemn the authorities from whence the ESSAY was produced, which the following paragraph from our first proposals will clearly evince:

“ In

" In which the most interesting passages of the late Mr. Blomefield's *Essay* will be properly *abridged, corrected, and enlarged*; together with such additional remarks, and authentic information, as will render the **WHOLE** a useful and entertaining system or survey of the antiquities, natural curiosities, family achievements, commerce, manufactures, produce, cultivation, soil, customs, manners, population, immunities, ecclesiastical, civil and military transactions, maritime and inland navigation, situation, and the present state of all and every part of this extensive county. Collected, and carefully digested, by several Gentlemen."

Mr. Blomefield had undoubtedly great merit in *his* part of the work, and great modesty in calling it an *Essay*, though it contained a full description of every town and parish in the county; and it is indeed from its being thought too voluminous, and rather a **CHURCH** history, that the present history of the county was under-

taken; in order to reduce into a narrow compass the more useful and valuable parts of that ingenious and laborious compilation; but we have in most instances purposely omitted that load of dull and uninteresting detail, by which the more rational parts of his history and descriptions are so frequently clogged.

The ADVERTISEMENT to a late bold, though impotent, attempt to obtrude on the public a surreptitious and mean performance, *in opposition to this*, appears to us, notwithstanding, so well calculated to expose the difficulties and nature of publication, that we are, unwillingly, induced to adopt it, as an apology suitable to this, or any similar work.

" The Editors of this history are aware of the necessity incumbent upon them to say something relative to the plan of the whole; not to conciliate a more favorable opinion of the performance, by a florid or pompous introduction, but merely to satisfy the public of the disinterestedness
of

of their motives. With an intention to entertain and inform the inhabitants of *Norfolk* in general, they undertook to compile a more compendious, and (they trust) accurate description of that county, than any yet extant. Perspicuity and conciseness are the two grand objects, which should engage the attention of every historian. Consistent with these, they have endeavoured to describe every particular in the clearest method; equally avoiding the extremes of a too elaborate or concise narration, they hope to obtain the suffrage of the generality of readers in their favor. It must be confessed, that great judgment is necessary in reducing works of a large size into a smaller compass; and at the same time to preserve the thread of the history clear and unbroken. A judicious selection of facts, arranged in a proper and comprehensive manner, is essentially requisite to prevent the unpardonable defects of obscurity or omission. How far they have succeeded, is humbly submitted to the candour of the learned

and

and impartial. As the taste and dispositions of men are infinitely various, it would be attempting an impossibility should any one undertake to compile a work with the vain hope of obtaining **UNIVERSAL** approbation. However, they flatter themselves that this history is not wholly destitute of information or entertainment. The specious declarations of a title-page contribute nothing to the real merit of any work: that must ever rest upon a more substantial basis; and be superior to any thing the authority of the greatest name can either give or take away. Equity and candour should be the characteristics of a critic. The distant transactions of former ages are involved in great obscurity; and amidst a multiplicity of authorities, an error in judgment or difference of opinion in matters, where the sole intention was to inform or entertain, is at least entitled to a favorable reception."

An author observes, that "the history of one's own country is the *first* and most important

important fund of knowledge, which every person should acquire. All ranks and conditions of men are materially affected by such public events as relate to themselves and fellow-citizens, and the gentleman and the peasant are alike interested in the consequences." Another writer remarks, that "The *necessity* of knowing our own country *previous*, as well as in *preference* to that of others, is so self-evident, that it needs only being mentioned to bring conviction." "The study of history (says a late address to the public) has ever been accounted the fountain and source of all true knowledge, and essentially requisite to form the gentleman or scholar."

That "history is the master-key of human knowledge" needs few arguments to confirm; as it holds out to us the *living manners* of the times; and, as it were, concentrates all the scattered rays of information into one *focus*. Through this medium, we, as Editors of the History of Norfolk,

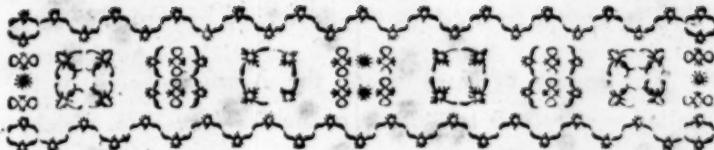
Norfolk, defire that our endeavours may be viewed: And, as we have exerted our utmost abilities *to please all*, so, we hope; *all will be pleased.*

“ To know the SHIRE, from home you need not stray,
 “ Sit at your ease, and every town survey:
 “ Here lordships, churches, roads, and coast are shown;
 “ Men, manners, customs, arts, and laws made known:
 “ Here ev’ry page your virtu will excite,
 “ And give improvement, while it gives delight.

ANON.



C. 1600.



Geographical and Historical Description

OF THE COUNTY of NORFOLK.

Situation and Extent.

THE county of Norfolk, exclusive of the city and county of Norwich, is divided into thirty-three hundreds, in which are upwards of seven hundred parishes, besides hamlets, &c.

It is situated, according to Sir Henry Spelman's *Index Villarum*, between $52^{\circ} 28'$ and $53^{\circ} 3'$ of north latitude, and between $0^{\circ} 13'$ and $1^{\circ} 42'$ of east longitude; being precisely sixty-six miles in extent from the meridian of *Yarmouth* to that of *Witbech*, and about forty miles in breadth from the parallel of *Billingford* to that of *Wells*. Mr. Templeman, in his very ingenious, but inaccurate *survey*, states the length of this county to be only fifty-seven miles, and its breadth thirty-five, and that it con-

tains 1426 square miles: But the productions of most *general* geographers are “ errors multiplied by errors.”

The county of Norfolk, or the *Northern-Folk**, is so called with respect to Suffolk, or the *Southern-Folk*, which, with part of Cambridge-shire, composed the Roman province of *Iceni*, and Saxon kingdom of *East-Anglia*. It is a maritime county, bounded on the north by the British ocean, called (tho' very improperly) the *German* ocean, which washes a shore of one hundred miles, from *Yarmouth* to the coast of Lincolnshire. On the south this county is divided from Suffolk by the rivers *Waveney* and *Little Ouse*, from *Yarmouth haven* to near *Littleport*, about seventy-four miles; from whence it is bounded by the *Isle of Ely* in Cambridge-shire, to *Gunthorpe-fluice*, (an irregular course of thirty-seven miles) where *Holland*, in the county of Lincoln, has the *Cross-keys Wash* between it and Norfolk. The whole county may be about two hundred and ten miles in circumference; and, with respect to the general situation of the kingdom, is accounted “ in the East of England;” the centre of the county, *East Dereham*, bearing a little S. of the E. from the centre of England, and North-nor-east from London, —distant ninety-four miles. In Norfolk are, one city and four boroughs, besides twenty market-towns, and many considerable villages which formerly had markets, now in disuse.

To the following alphabetical list of the **HUNDREDS** in the county of Norfolk, we add the number of **PARISHES** in each;—the **GENERAL COUNTY-RATE** at a six-hundred pound levy;—and the number of **VOTES** polled at the contested election for Knights of the Shire, March 23,

1768;

* In Latin, *BOREALIS POPULUS*, or the Northern people; in the Saxon, *NORDFOLK*.

1768; Sir Armine Wodehouse, bart. of Kimberley, Thomas de-Grey, Esq. of Merton, Sir Edward Astley, bart. of Melton-Constable, and Wenman Coke, Esq. of Holkham, being Candidates.

Hundreds.	Parishes.	General Rate.	Poll.
Blofield	19	£. 9 16 0	110
Brothercross	10	9 0 0	121
Clackclose	34	30 3 0	463
Clavering	20	19 4 6	181
Depwade	22	23 11 6	230
Diis	16	17 5 0	245
Earsham	15	19 19 6	279
Erpingham, North	32	22 3 0	275
Erpingham, South	39	29 6 0	350
Eynsford	31	24 18 6	312
Flegg, East	12	7 14 0*	994
Flegg, West	14	8 13 0	119
Forehoe	24	24 18 3	412
Freebridge-Lynn	36	27 12 0†	647
Freebridge-Marshland	16	17 9 3	190
Gallow	34	18 1 6	203
Greenhoe, North,	16	17 10 0	354
Greenhoe, South	24	21 3 9	216
Grimshoe	17	15 4 9	247
Guiltcross	12	12 3 3	212
Happing	17	13 9 6	204
Hentstead	21	11 18 9	127
Holt	28	18 9 6	409
Humbleyard	18	13 19 0	100
Launditch	35	26 19 0	391
Loddon	21	19 12 0	181
Mitford	18	20 9 6	386
Shropham	22	20 8 3‡	435
Smithdon	18	17 10 3	213
Taverham	19	12 3 0	144
Tunstead	25	12 12 6	323
Walsham	15	12 18 0	164
Wayland	16	14 13 0	227
City and county of	38		614
Norwich	3		
Total	754	600 0 0	
Votes polled by freeholders not residing in the county, and uncertainties			821
D z		Total	11021

* Yarmouth, † Lynn-Reg's, ‡ Thetford,---not affected to this rate.

The whole county pays to the land-tax 82,552l. 15s. 5d. and to the poor-rate 83,739l. 4s. 10d.

This county, says a late describer, " is large and populous, extending from east to west full fifty miles, but from south to north not above thirty, and containing in circumference about 140 miles. In these are reckoned 1,148,000 acres, 47,180 houses, thirty-two market-towns, and a great number of well-inhabited villages. Mr. Camden, indeed, gives but twenty-seven market-towns, and 625 villages*; but, from the rate-books of the taxes at the Revolution, it appears that the villages are 711, and the market-towns, including the city and boroughs, thirty-two. The writer of the *English Gazetteer* says, " there are in Norfolk 283,000 inhabitants, and that the area is 1426 square miles;" and the *English Traveller*, published in 1772, tells us, the length and breadth of the county is but twenty miles by twenty-nine, and that it has 660 villages, and thirty-two market-towns, the whole circumference being 130 miles. But, from authorities of this nature, the reader is mis-lead in the first instance, and confounded in the second, third, &c. *ad infinitum*: And this we more readily grant, since WE, even we! who have made a personal scrutiny in *toto*, and in *partibus*, cannot determine the exact number of towns or parishes:—Nay, the precise number of market-towns is yet a doubtful matter.

By the bishop's register, we find there are more than 800 single, consolidated and dilapidated church-benefices in Norfolk; and, by the list of villages prefixed to each hundred in this history, we find that what are *now called*

TOWNS

* There are, says Camden, 660 parish-churches in this county.

TOWNS amount to 716:—the index to the *poll-book* published in 1768, makes them 729, exclusive of the city and hamlets of Norwich.

The Names and Number of Towns, having Markets, are as follow:

Attleburgh	Loddon
Aylsham	Lynn-Regis
Buckenham, New	NORWICH
Burnham-Westgate	Reepham
Dereham, East	Swaffham
Diss	Thetford
Downham	Walsham, North
Fakenham	Walsingham
Harleston	Watton
Harling, East	Wells
Hingham	Wymondham
Holt	Yarmouth

Besides which are many others, as Acle, Castle-Rising, Cawston, Cley, Cromer, Docking, Litcham, Methwold, Worstead, &c. now in disuse:—Indeed, few lordships in the county but had a *market* granted, though this, we imagine, to have been only a *liberty* to buy and sell.

The county of Norfolk is, in shape, of an oval form, and so surrounded by water, that, except a small meadow near Lopham, it is an *island* of itself. [For a description of its ancient and present state; its ecclesiastic, civil, and military government; roads, rivers, customs, produce, commerce, &c. we refer our readers to the particular head under which they are classified.]

Ecclesiastic Government.

The DIOCESE of Norwich comprehends the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and a few parishes in Cambridgeshire, excepting Emneth in Freebridge-Marshland, which belongs to the bishopric of Ely; Hadleigh, Monks-Illeigh, and Moulton, in Suffolk, as peculiars to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Frekenham to the see of Rochester.

It is divided into four ARCHDEACONRIES, and those subdivided into DEANRIES, PARISHES, parochial benefices, and medietyes.

<i>Archdeaconries.</i>		<i>Deanries.</i>		<i>Parishes, &c.</i>
Norwich	-	-	13	365
Norfolk	-	-	12	468
Sudbury	-	-	8	3
Suffolk	-	-	14	523

ARCHDEACONY of NORWICH.

<i>Deanries.</i>		<i>Parishes, &c.</i>
Blofield	-	34
Breckles	-	17
Brisley	"	32
Flegg	-	28
Holt	-	30
Ingworth	-	39
Lynn	-	62
Norwich	-	36
Sparham	-	33
Taverham	-	18
Thetford	-	6
Toftrees	-	12
Walsingham	-	18

ARCH.

ARCHDEACONY of NORFOLK.

<i>Deanries.</i>		<i>Parishes, &c.</i>
Brooke	-	72
Burnham	-	37
Cranwich	-	46
Depwade	-	25
Fincham	-	40
Hingham	-	48
Hitcham	-	21
Humbleyard	-	29
Redenhall	-	31
Repps	-	32
Rockland	-	41
Waxton	-	46

In the Archdeaconry of SUDBURY are eight Deanries, viz.

Blackbourn	Stow
Clare	Sudbury
Fordham	Thedwastre
Hartesmere	Thingoe

The Archdeaconry of SUFFOLK has fourteen Deanries, viz.

Bosmere	Loes
Carlford	Lothingland
Claydon	Orford
Colneis	Samford
Dunwich	South Elmham
Hoxne	Wangford
Ipswich	Willford

The ecclesiastical government of this diocese is in the bishop of Norwich, assisted by the four Archdeacons, the Dean and Chapter, Chancellor, &c. at whose respective offices business is done.

St. Felix, a Burgundian priest, who landed at Bawbingley in Norfolk, and converted the kingdom of the East-Angles to Christianity, first placed his see at Dunwich about the year 630. In 673 Bisus, the fourth Bishop, divided the diocese, continuing one at *Dunwich*, who had jurisdiction over Suffolk, and settled the other at *North Elmham*, whose pastoral care was confined to Norfolk. About 870 the sees were united, and the Bishop's residence fixed at Elmham. In 1075 the see was removed to *Thetford*, and so continued till 1094, when it was finally fixed at *Norwich*; and the Right Rev. Father in God, Philip Yonge, the present Lord Bishop of Norwich, is the fifty-eighth from Herbert Lozinga, who first removed the see from Thetford, and founded the Cathedral church of Norwich.—This first Bishop of Norwich* was extremely rich and powerful, being Lord High-Chancellor of England; as were also many of his successors.

The Diocesan had but one Archdeacon till about the year 1124, when the Archdeaconry of Norfolk was erected; that of Sudbury in 1126, Suffolk in 1127, and Norwich in 1200.—The History of Norwich, (to which we refer our readers for further particulars of this bishopric) states the number of parish-churches and chapels in the diocese to be 1353, besides four peculiars; 800 of which are in Norfolk, 537 in Suffolk, and 16 in Cambridge-shire†. This diocese is in the province of Canterbury, and consequently the bishop a suffragan to the Metropolitan or Archbishop. The Bishops of Norwich sit in the House of

Peers

* Herbert, surnamed *Loſenga*. Camden says *LEASUNG* in the Saxon signifies a lye, or trick;--and this appellation he acquired by his simoniacal practices.

† Spelman, in his *VILLARE ANGLICUM*, tells us, that the county of Norfolk hath 660 parishes, and that the Diocese of Norwich contains 1121 parishes. Another writer pretends to account for 160 vicarages in Norfolk.

Peers as Abbot of Holme*; have their palace or chief residence at Norwich, and the see is charged in the King's books at 834l. 11s. 7d. The author of the *Great Historical, Geographical and Poetical Dictionary* values it at 899l. 17s. 7d. besides the tenth of the whole Clergy, which amounts to 11,117l. 13s.

From the *Register* in the Bishop's-office we have the following *memorandum*: " Total of Papists in the diocese of Norwich is 1279, and in all England and Wales 67,916, as appears by returns made upon enquiry in 1767."

" The number of established Clergy resident within the diocese of Norwich, as calculated in the year 1772, is as follows, viz.

Of the beneficed Clergy, about	550
Curates not beneficed, about	- 150

And the annual amount of the revenues of the church, within the said diocese, (exclusive of the Bishopric) is estimated at *****."

Civil Government.

The civil government of the county is in the High-Sheriff for the time being. He is annually appointed by the King, and presides at the assizes†, and other county-meetings. The Lent Assizes are held at Thetford in March, and the Summer Assizes at Norwich in August.

E	Before
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* The Bishop of Norwich is the only Abbot in England, and now sits in Parliament by virtue of the Barony of Holme-Abbey, the Barony formerly belonging to the Bishopric, it being in the Crown. --N. B. Holme was a mitred Abbey, and as such its Abbots always sat in Parliament.

† Assizes, assize, (assessio) anciently signified in general, a court where the Judges or Assessors heard and determined causes. The Judges in their circuits have a commission of assize directed to them, to which is now added commissions of general gaol-delivery, of oyer and terminer,

Before the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk had each of them a separate High-Sheriff, the usage was for the Crown to appoint one year out of the Gentlemen of Norfolk, and the next out of Suffolk, and so on alternately, as is the custom now in Cambridge and Huntingdon-shire. The separation took place in the 18th of Elizabeth, 1576, from which time till the 2d of Charles I. 1626, we do not find any regular list of High-Sheriffs.

A corrett List of the High-Sheriffs for the County of Norfolk, from the 2d Year of the Reign of Charles the First to the present Time.

CHARLES the FIRST.

- 1626 Thomas Holl, esq. *Heigham by Norwich*
- 1627 Sir Charles le Gros, knt. *Croftwick*
- 1628 Framlingham Gaudy, esq. *Crows-ball in Debenham*
- 1629 Sir Robert Gaudy, knt. *West Harling*
- 1630 Sir Roger Townshend, bart. *Rainham*
- 1631 Francis Mapes, esq. *Rolleby*
- 1632 Thomas Pettus, esq. *Rackheath*
- 1633 Sir John Hobart, knt. and bart. *Int-wood*
- 1634 William Heveningham, esq. *Ketteringham*
- 1635 Sir John Wentworth, knt. *Nettlestead, Suffolk*
- 1636 Sir Edward Barkham, knt. and bart. *West-acre*
- 1637 William Paaston, esq. *Oxnead*
- 1638 Sir Francis Astley, bart. *Melton-Constable, died*
John Buxton, esq. *Tibbenham, succeeded*
- 1639 Augustine Holl, esq. *Heigham by Norwich*
- 1640 Thomas Windham, esq. *Felbrigg*

1641

of nisi prius, and of the peace. By the precept for the general gaol delivery, the Sheriff, Under-Sheriff, Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Coroners, Escheators, Stewards, and all Chief-Constables and Bailiffs of hundreds and liberties are commanded to attend.

1641 Robert Longe, esq. *Reymerston*
 1642 Sir Thomas Guybon, knt. *Thursford*
 1643 James Calthorpe, esq. *East Barsham*
 1644 John Coke, esq. *Godwick*
 1645 Sir Valentine Pell, knt. *Dersingham*
 1646 Sir Isaac Astley, knt. and bart. *Melton-Constable*
 1647 Thomas Berney, esq. *Reedham*
 1648 William Coke, esq. *Godwick.*

CHARLES the SECOND.

1649 Gregory Gawiell, esq. *Watlington*
 1650 Hugh Audley, esq. *Old Buckenham*
 1651 Sir Ralph Hare, bart. *Stow-Bardolph*
 1652 Charles Garneys, esq. *Mourning-Thorpe*
 1653 Thomas Wright, esq. *Kilverstone, died*
 Sir Edward Astley, bart. *Melton-Constable, succeeded*
 1654 John Earle, esq. *Heydon*
 1655 Sir Arthur Jenny, knt. *Knattishall, in Suffolk*
 1656 Edward Ward, esq. *Poftwick*
 1657 Edward Ward, esq. *Poftwick*
 1658 John Sidley, esq. *Morley*
 1659 John Cremer, esq. *Ingoldesthorpe*
 1660 Sir John Cremer, knt. *Ingoldesthorpe*
 1661 Robert Suckling, esq. *Woodton*
 1662 Richard Berney, esq. *Reedham*
 1663 Sir Thomas Meadows, knt. *Great Yarmouth*
 1664 Sir Jacob Astley, knt. and bart. *Melton-Constable*
 1665 Sir Thomas Pettus, bart. *Rackbeath*
 1666 Sir John Hobart, bart. *Blickling*
 1667 Hatton Berners, esq. *Lynn-Regis*
 1668 Sir Edward Barkham, bart. *West-acre*
 1669 Sir Robert Vyner, knt. and bart. *London*
 1670 Richard Berney, esq. *Kirby-Bedon*

1671 Robert Cony, esq. *Walpole St. Peter*
 1672 John Mann, esq. *Norwich*
 1673 Sir William Adams, bart. *Sprowston*
 1674 Thomas Bishop, esq. *Ipswich, in Suffolk*
 1675 Elisha Philippo, esq. *Norwich*
 1676 John Pell, esq. *Dersingham*
 1677 Christopher Layer, esq. *Bacton*
 1678 Thomas Pierson, esq. *Wifbech, in Cambridge-shire*
 1679 John Jay, esq. *Holveston*
 1680 Philip Harbord, esq. *Stanninghall*
 1681 Thomas Bransby, esq. *Shottisham*
 1682 John Knevett, esq. *Ashweltborpe*
 1683 John Greene, esq. *Willy*
 1684 Henry Shelton, esq. *Shelton.*

J A M E S the S E C O N D.

1685 Sir Francis Guybon, knt. *Thursford*
 1686 Sir Robert Nightingale, knt. *North Burlingham*
 1687 John Harbord, esq. *Gunton*
 1688 Thomas Seaman, esq. *Norwich.*

W I L L I A M and M A R Y.

1689 John Herne, esq. *Arminghall*
 1690 Erasmus Earle, esq. *Hcydon*
 1691 Sir Augustine Palgrave, bart. *North Burlingham.*
 1692 Richard Berney, esq. *Reedham*
 1693 John Burkin, esq. *North Burlingham*
 1694 Sir Charles Adams, bart. *Sprowston.*

W I L L I A M the T H I R D.

1695 Francis Windham, esq. *Cromer*
 1696 Sir James Edwards, bart. *Reedham*
 1697 Robert Doughty, esq. *Hanworth*

1698 Richard Mason, esq. *Neazon*
 1699 Matthew Long, esq. *Dunforn*
 1700 Edward Lombe, esq. *Wefton*
 1701 Robert Suckling, esq. *Woodton.*

Queen A N N E.

1702 William Newman, esq. *Baconsthorpe*
 1703 Roger Crowe, esq. *Norwich*
 1704 Richard Knights, esq. *Attlebridge.*
 1705 James Hoste, esq. *Sandringham*
 1706 Richard Dashwood, esq. *Cockley-Cley*
 1707 Beaupre Bell, esq. *Outwell*
 1708 Henry Framingham, esq. *Burnham*
 1709 Henry Heron, esq. *Ketteringham*
 1710 Sir Peter Seaman, knt. *Norwich*
 1711 John Fowle, esq. *Broome*
 1712 James Harcourt, esq. *Carleton by Norwich*
 1713 Thomas Wright, esq. *East Harling*
 1714 Edward Lombe, esq. *Great Melton.*

G E O R G E the F I R S T.

1715 Thomas Durrant, esq. *Scotton*
 1716 Thomas Rogers, esq. *Derfingham, died*
 Thomas Rogers, esq. jun. *Derfingham, succeeded*
 1717 William Berners, esq. *Lynn-Regis*
 1718 John Howes, esq. *Mourning-Thorpe*
 1719 John Colman, esq. *Broome*
 1720 Peter Elwin, esq. *Tottington*
 1721 Nathaniel Life, esq. *Swaffham*
 1722 William Rootley, esq. *West Barsham*
 1723 Gresham Page, esq. *Saxthorpe*
 1724 Robert Clough, esq. *Feltwell*
 1725 Richard Whitaker, esq. *Matlaf*

1726 Rice Wigget, esq. *Geftwick*
 1727 Roger Pratt, esq. *West Ruston.*

GEORGE the SECOND.

1728 John Bedingfield, esq. *Beeston St. Andrew*
 1729 Cyril Wych, esq. *Hockwold cum Wilton*
 1730 Richard Tubby, esq. *Brockdish*
 1731 Thomas Cooper, esq. *North Walsham*
 1732 John Wilson, esq. *Stanhoe*
 1733 William Helwys, esq. *Morton*
 1734 Edwin Cony, esq. *Houghton by Walsingham*
 1735 George Smith, esq. *Topcroft*
 1736 William Henry Fleming, esq. *Watton*
 1737 Peter Rosier, esq. *Pulham*
 1738 Thomas Bell, esq. *Oulton*
 1739 John Parr, esq. *Salthouse*
 1740*Henry Negus, esq. *Hoveton St. Peter*
 1741 James Mackarel, esq. *Ringland*
 1742 John Thurston, esq. *Barwick*
 1743 Edward Atkyns, esq. *Ketteringham*
 1744*Peter Barret, esq. *Horstead*
 1745 Barry Love, esq. *Ormesby*
 1746 Sir Horatio Pettus, bart. *Rackheat*
 1747 Charles Cooper Morley, esq. *East Barham*
 1748 William Jermy, esq. *Bayfield*
 1749 Thomas Sotherton, esq. *Taverham*
 1750 Leonard Mapes, esq. *Rolleby*
 1751 Robert Knopwood, esq. *Threxton*
 1752 Francis Longe, esq. *Spixworth*
 1753 Hamilton Custance, esq. *Wefton*
 1754 Cotton Symonds, esq. *Ormesby*
 1755 Miles Branthwayte, esq. *Attlebridge*
 1756 John Barker, esq. *Shropham, died*
 *Philip Bedingfield, esq. *Ditshingham, succeeded*

1757 Israel Longe, esq. *Dunston*
 1758 Hammond Alpe, esq. *Little Frampton*
 1759 Richard Fuller, esq. *Whetacre-Burgb*
 1760* John Berney, esq. *Bracon-Abs.*

GEORGE the THIRD.

1761 William Churchman, esq. *Mangreen*
 1762 Sir Hanson Berney, bart. *Kirby-Bedon*
 1763* Sir Edward Astley, bart. *Melton-Constable*
 1764 John Davis, esq. *Watlington*
 1765* William Wigget Bulwer, esq. *Wood-Dalling*
 1766 John Norris, esq. *Great Witchingham*
 1767* Crisp Molineux, esq. *Garboldisham*
 1768* William Woodley, esq. *Eccles*
 1769* Edmund Rolfe, (the younger) esq. *Heacham*
 1770* John Micklethwaite, esq. *Beechton St. Andrew*
 1771* James Smyth, esq. *Topcroft*
 1772* John Lombe, Esq. *Great Melton*
 1773* Edward Hase, Esq. *Salle*
 1774 Thomas Lobb Chute, Esq. *South Pickenham*
 1775* Brigg Price Fountain, Esq. *Narford*
 1776* Nicolas Styleman, esq. *Snettisham*
 1777* Charles Garneys, esq. *Hedenham*
 1778* Sir Henry Peyton, bart. *Narborough*
 1779* John Berney Petre, esq. *Woffwick*
 1780* Sir Thomas Beauchamp Proctor, bart. *Langley*
 1781* Robert Lee Doughty, esq. *Haworth.*

N. B. Those Gentlemen marked with an asterisk * are now living, 1781.

The chief Officers of the county at this time, 1781, are,

Lord Lieutenant, Vice-Admiral, and Custos Rotulorum,
 The Right Hon. GEORGE Earl of ORFORD.

High-

High-Sheriff,

ROBERT LEE DOUGHTY, Esq. of Hanworth.

Under-Sheriff,

Mr. JOHN ADEY, of Aylsham.

Clerk of the Peace,

PETER FINCH, Esq. of Norwich.

Receiver-general of the Land-Tax,

ROGER KERRISON, Esq. Alderman of Norwich, and
WILLIAM FISHER, Esq. of Great Yarmouth.

Receiver of the Stamp-duty,

JOHN GAY, Esq. Alderman of Norwich.

Coroners for the County,

CAPEL BRINGLOE of Hingham, and RICHARD EATOR
of Bracondale-hill, Gents.

Coroner for the Liberty of the Duchy of Lancaster,

JAMES SMYTH, Gent. of Norwich.

Coroner for the Liberty of the Duke of Norfolk,

THOMAS DOVE, Gent. of Kenninghall.

At the time when Alfred divided the kingdom into counties, hundreds, &c. he instituted great and petty Officers for the regulation and good government of his people, as well as for carrying into execution that excellent body of laws formed by him, which, though now lost, is generally esteemed the origin of *common Law*.

The hundreds were divided into tythings, or dwellings of ten householders. Every *householder* was answerable to the king for the good behaviour of his family, his servants, and even of his guests, provided they continued with him above three days. A *tything-man*, *headborough*, or *borholder* presided over each tything; and all the ten householders

householders were mutually pledges for each other. If any person in the tything was suspected of an offence, he was imprisoned unless the headborough gave security for him. If he made his escape either before or after finding sureties, the headborough became liable to enquiry, and if the escape was made in consequence of any neglect, exposed to the penalties of the law. Any person who refused to enter himself into one of these tythings, was deemed an outlaw, and put to death. Nor could any one be received into a different tything, without producing a certificate from that to which he before belonged. By this institution every man was obliged by his own interest, to keep a watchful eye over the conduct of his neighbours, and was, in some measure, surety for the behaviour of those, who were placed under the division to which he belonged.

" This plan for the administration of justice was truly admirable. The headborough summoned together his whole tything to assist him in deciding any lesser differences, which occurred among the members of this small community. In affairs of greater moment, in appeals from the tything, or in controversies arising between members of different tythings, the cause was brought before the hundred, which consisted of ten tythings, or an hundred families of freemen, and which was regularly assembled once in four weeks, for the deciding of causes. Their method of decision deserves to be remembered, because it was the origin of that great privilege peculiar to Englishmen, *of being tried by a jury of their own Peers.* Twelve freeholders were chosen, who being sworn, together with the *bundreder*, or presiding magistrate of that division, to administer impartial justice, proceeded to the examination of that cause, which was submitted to their jurisdiction.

And besides these monthly meetings of the hundred, there was an annual meeting appointed for a more general inspection of the police of the district; the enquiry into crimes, the correction of abuses in magistrates, and the obliging every person to shew the tything in which he was registered.

“ The court immediately superior to that of the hundred was the county-court, which met twice a year, after Michaelmas and Easter, and consisted of all the freeholders in the county, who possessed an equal vote in the decision of causes. The Bishop presided in this court, together with the *Eorlerman*. Appeals lay to this court from those of the hundreds and tythings. And here also such controversies as arose between men of different hundreds were decided. The *Eorlerman** formerly possessed both the civil and military authority; but Alfred, sensible that this coalition of powers rendered the nobility dangerous and independent, appointed a Sheriff in each county; who enjoyed an equal authority with the former in his judicial capacity. His office also empowered him to guard the rights of the Crown in the county; and to levy the fines imposed, and other services of a similar nature.

“ From all these courts an appeal lay to the King himself in council; and as the people, sensible of the equity and great talents of Alfred, placed their chief confidence in him, he was soon overwhelmed with appeals from all parts of England. He was indefatigable in the dispatch of these causes; but finding that his time must be entirely engrossed by this branch of his duty, he resolved to obviate the inconvenience by correcting the ignorance or corruption of the inferior magistrates, from whence it arose.

Accordingly,

* Much in the nature of our Lord Lieutenant.

Accordingly, he took care to have his nobility instructed in the laws; he chose his Earls and Sheriffs from among the persons most celebrated for knowledge and probity; he punished several for malversation in office; and removed every person from his post, as soon as ever he discovered him deficient either in abilities, or veracity."

Tythingmen, borholders, and headboroughs, answer to our constable, and other peace officers of like degree. Over these are constables of hundreds and franchises, first ordained by Edward I. 13, *anno 1285*; two to be chose in each hundred and franchise. These are what we now call *constabularii capitales*, or high-constables.—The appointment of a petty-constable belongs to the lords of divers manors, *jure feudi*. The hundreder, or chief-magistrate of ten tythings seems to have possessed a power of deciding on local matters like unto our Justices of the Peace, who were known in the 4th of Edward III. as *Conservators*, or, *Wardens of the Peace*. They were formally instituted in 1344, and their power enlarged and settled as at present, *anno 1590*. Justices of the Peace are generally persons of interest and credit, nominated by the *Custos Rotulorum* of a county by virtue of the King's commission. Of these, some are of the *quorum*, as without them no business of importance may be dispatched.

Superior to the tythings and hundred-courts was the county-court, first established in 896, over which the High-Sheriff now presides; though, before him, the Bishop and Eorlerman had the power and direction of all civil affairs. The Sheriff, or *Shire-reve*, (*vice-comes*) was anciently chose by the people in the county-court; but he is now appointed by the king; in order to which the Itinerant Judges every year nominate six persons for each county,

whereof the Lord Chancellor, the Privy-council, &c. assembled in the Exchequer-chamber, make choice of three; out of which number the King chuses one. He serves for one year, and, besides his ministerial office, has a judicial office, whereby he holds two several kinds of courts; the one called the *Sheriff's turn*, held in divers places in the county, to enquire of all offences against common law not prohibited by any statute:—The other is called the *County-court*, wherein he hears and determines all civil causes of the county under forty shillings. He executes the King's orders, and is to attend and assist the Itinerant Judges.

The county of Norfolk is represented in Parliament by two Knights, two Citizens, and eight Burghesses; it pays twenty-two parts of the land-tax, yet has but twelve delegates to dispose of it, whilst Cornwall has forty-four, yet contributes but eight parts. Scotland pays little more than half as much of the land-tax as Norfolk, yet sends forty-five Members to Parliament. Essex pays twice the amount of Scotland, and sends only eight. Middlesex has eight Representatives, yet raises ten times the land-tax revenue of Cornwall.—It is much to be wished that representation bore some proportion to taxation!!!

KNIGHTS of SHIRE for the COUNTY of NORFOLK,
with the number of Votes polled at each contested Election.

1708	Sir John Holland, Bart. Quidenham	
	Ash Wyndham, Esq. Felbrigg	
1710, Oct. 11,	Sir John Wodehouse, Bt. Kimberley	3217
	Sir Jacob Astley, Bart. Melton- Constable	3200
	Ash Wyndham, Esq. Felbrigg	2783
	Robert Walpole, Esq. Houghton	2397
		1715, Feb.

1715, Feb. 18,	Thomas de Grey, Esq. Merton	-	3183
	Sir Jacob Astley, Bart. Melton-		
	Constable	- - -	3059
	Sir Ralph Hare, Bt. Stow-Bardolph	2840	
	Erasmus Earle, Esq. Heydon	-	2635
1722	Sir John Hobart, Bart. Blickling		
	Thomas Coke, Esq. Holkham		
1727	Sir Edmund Bacon, P. Bart. Gar-		
	boldisham		
	Harbord Harbord, Esq. Gunton		
1734, May 22,	Sir Edmund Bacon, P. Bart. Car-		
	boldisham	- - -	3224
	Wm. Wodehouse, Esq. Kimberley	3153	
	William Morden, Esq. Gunton	-	3147
	Robert Coke, Esq. Holkham	-	3081
1736	Armine Wodehouse, Esq. Kimber-		
	ley, <i>vice</i>		
	William Wodehouse, Esq. <i>deceased</i>		
1741	Edward Lord Coke, son to the Earl		
	of Leicester		
	Arm. Wodehouse, Esq. Kimberley		
1747	Hon. George Townshend, son to		
	Lord Viscount Townshend		
	Arm. Wodehouse, Esq. Kimberley		
1754, May 8,	Hon. George Townshend		
	Armine Wodehouse, Esq. Kimberley		
1761	Hon. George Townshend		
	Arm. Wodehouse, Esq. Kimberley		
1764	Thomas de Grey, Esq. jun. Mer-		
	ton, <i>vice</i>		
	The Hon. George Townshend, <i>now</i>		
	<i>Lord Viscount Townshend</i>		
1768, March 23,	Sir Edward Astley, Bart. Melton-		
	Constable	- - -	2977
	Thomas de Grey, Esq. Merton	2754	
		Sir	

	Sir Armine Wodehouse, Bart. Kim-	
	berley - - - - -	2680
1774, Oct.	Wenman Coke, Esq. Holkham	2610
	Sir Edward Astley, Bart. Melton-	
	Constable	
	Wenman Coke, Esq. Holkham	
1776, May 8,	Thomas William Coke, Esq. Holk-	
	ham, <i>vice</i>	
	Wenman Coke, Esq. <i>deceased</i>	
1780, Sept. 20,	Sir Edward Astley, Bart. Melton-	
	Constable	
	Thomas Wm. Coke, Esq. Holkham.	

In the year 1258 counties first sent Knights to Parliament; before this the Knights met only in their own counties. Knights of the Shire, or Knights of Parliament, are two Gentlemen of worth, chosen on the King's writ in *pleno comitatu*, by such of the freeholders as can expend 40s. per ann. These, when every man who had a Knight's-fee was customarily constrained to be a *Knight*, were of necessity to be *milites gladio cincti*, for so the writ runs to this day; but now custom admits Esquires to be chosen to this important trust. They must have at least 500l. per annum, and their expences, properly, are to be defrayed by the county, though this is now seldom required. A Knight of the Shire is, and has ever been, esteemed the most independent Member of the English House of Commons; because, being chosen by the voluntary suffrages of a large body of the people, whose minds and interests are free from the venal and limited influence of power and party, the object of that choice must always hold sentiments congenial with his virtuous constituents.

It is supposed there are 6000 freeholders in the county of Norfolk, who send two Representatives to Parliament. The city of Norwich, and the boroughs of Lynn-Regis, Great Yarmouth, Thetford, and Castle-Rising, also send two each.

*The Members chosen for the New Parliament in Sept. 1780,
are, as called over in the House of Commons:*

<i>Norfolk,</i>	Sir Edw. Astley, Bart. Melton-Constable Thomas William Coke, Esq. Holkham.
<i>Lynn-Regis,</i>	Hon. Tho. Walpole, Carshalton, Surrey Crisp Molineux, Esq. Garboldisham.
<i>Great Yarmouth,</i>	Right Hon. C. Townshend, Honyngham, Hon. Richard Walpole, London.
<i>Thetford,</i>	Charles Fitzroy Scudamore, Esq. Holme- Lacey, Herefordshire Rich. Hopkins, Esq. Oving, Bucks.
<i>Castle-Rising,</i>	John Chetwynd Talbot, Esq. Robert Mackreth, Esq. Ewhursts, Hants.
<i>Norwich,</i>	Sir Harbord Harbord, Bart. Gunton Edward Bacon, Esq. Earlham.

Military Government.

The military and marine government of this county is committed to the care of a Lord-Lieutenant and Vice-Admiral, who is also Custos Rotulorum. The Lord-Lieut. is the *locum tenens* of the King, and, as his Vice-roy, governs in the county. It is an office of great distinction, appointed by the King for managing the standing militia in the county, and all military affairs therein. He has the power of commissioning all officers in the militia, (his Majesty's approbation, as a mere matter of form, being obtained); he appoints the Deputy-Lieutenants, whose names must also

be presented by the King. As Custos Rotulorum, he puts such gentlemen as are properly qualified into the commission of the peace, and is supposed to have custody of the rolls, or records of the sessions of peace. In both these capacities he appears rather a Minister than a Judge, though he is, in his own person, a Justice of Peace and Quorum. Lord-Lieutenants of counties were first instituted July 24, 1549.—Deputy-Lieutenants regulate the ballot, and pass the militia-men to their respective regiments; and if in the commission of peace, provides, by statute, for the wives and families of such men as are in actual service.

Two Right Honorable Peers now living, and residing in this county, were the original promoters of the militia bill, passed in 1757; which establishment, though strongly opposed at that time, has since proved of great national import; and, by the endeavours of men zealous in the true interests of their country, hath rose progressively to a system of military discipline and tactics not inferior to the most regular troops. This county hath also the honor of having raised the first battalion, which marched out of the county, and did duty at Hilsea-barracks, near Portsmouth, in 1759.

From a quarto volume, called “A Plan of Discipline, composed for the Use of the Militia of the County of Norfolk,” published in 1759, by the late William Windham, Esq. Lieutenant-Colonel of the first battalion, we beg leave to quote a passage of Lord Townshend’s dedication.

“ Our military sceptics now direct their whole tirallerie against the military part of the act; to obviate, therefore, the objections on this side, a worthy gentleman of Norfolk*,
though

* The late William Windham, Esq. of Felbrigg.

though no regular bred soldier, nor the offspring of the parade, has endeavoured to prove, how easily an healthy robust countryman, or a resolute mechanic, may be taught the use of arms; and how very attainable that degree of military knowledge is, which will enable a country gentleman to command a platoon; consequently that, under proper encouragement, it is very possible for this kingdom (the constant rival of the most powerful nation in the world, and engaged often for its own sake to defend the liberties of others) to establish so numerous and permanent a force, as may enable it all times to act with superiority abroad, without endangering its own safety or liberties at home. Such undoubtedly may be the consequence of instructing, to a certain degree, the body of the nation in the use of arms; for if the common people be made only half soldiers, and the gentlemen by a certain degree of application become only half officers; yet by a timely multiplication of the number of militia, as well as by the rotation prescribed by the act, and that further additional discipline which would result, from the militia's being put into actual service, previous to an invasion; this country will have a better security against the calamities of war, than any other in the world, Switzerland alone excepted."

And now, we hope, we shall be excused for adding to this section of our general history, a list of those gentlemen serving at this time, 1781, in the militia of this county.

WEST NORFOLK REGIMENT,

Kingston upon Hull.

Colonel,—George Earl of Orford—Colonel in the Army.

Lieutenant Colonel,—Knipe Gobbet.

Major,—Richard Lloyd.

G

Captains.

Captains.

Christopher Girling
 Edward Coke
 William Earle Bulwer
 John Micklethwaite
 George Montgomery-Molineux
 George Preston
 George Cubit.

Captain-Lieutenant—Robert Suckling.

Lieutenants.

William Thorne
 William Gordon
 John Alderson
 Mostyn John Armstrong
 James Beevor
 David Williams
 James Ward
 Guy Lloyd
 Thomas Walpole.

Ensigns.

— Gordon
 Robert Colvin
 John Girling
 William Girling
 — Crozier
 Maurice William Suckling
 Henry Falkner
 James Plestow
 Hawkins Hamilton.

Adjutant,—William Gordon.

Quarter-Master,—Robert Suckling.

Surgeon,—John Alderson.

Surgeon's-Mate,—David Williams.

EAST

EAST NORFOLK REGIMENT,
Camp at Harwich.

Colonel,—Sir John Wodehouse, Bart.

Lieutenant-Colonel,—Hon. Horatio Walpole.

Major,—Richard Ward.

Captains.

Edmund Mapes

Hammond Alpe

John Smith

Thomas Bullock

Jacob Astley.

Captain-Lieutenant,—Thomas Cubit.

Lieutenants.

David Ingersol

Nicholas Boylstone

William Tapp

F. Bedingfield

Thomas Hatch

Thomas Martin

Wright

John Gibson.

Ensigns.

Thomas Penrice

Thomas Crompton

John Tooke.

Adjutant,—William Tapp.

Quarter Master,—Henry Hawke.

Surgeon,—Thomas Penrice.

Surgeon's-Mate,—Thomas Crompton.

Of fortifications, or land-defence, we have very little to say, in Norfolk. The danger and difficulty of navigating a force on this coast has been always looked on as its best security; but, in the present situation of affairs, some begin to think it less invulnerable, should an enemy be piloted by any of those infernal wretches, who, from smugglers, become parricides!—robbers!—pirates! Yarmouth, indeed, hath a platform of guns, called a *Fort*, at the entrance of the harbour; but certainly a place of so much importance in itself, and, as the key to the whole county, it ought to be better secured. Royal Engineers have been down lately to examine the grounds, and, we are told, to construct some additional works on the walls of the town, on the Denes, and on the heights of Gorlestone. At Lynn-Regis the harbour was formerly guarded by a battery, called St. Ann's, which was since dismounted, but lately supplied with canon, and repaired: However, the navigation of Lynn channel is so extremely precarious, that little danger need be apprehended by a hostile visit from our natural enemies in that quarter.

The apprehension of a descent on our coast by any of the maritime powers now at war with us, and the late dreadful insurrection in London, hath operated strongly with some public-spirited persons at Lynn, and at Yarmouth, to form themselves into military associations. Some other towns in the county have each made a feeble effort to learn the military exercise and discipline—to little purpose.

The Vice-Admiral of a county is an officer appointed by the Lord High-Admiral, with Judges and Marshals subordinate to him; for the exercising of jurisdiction in maritime affairs, within his respective limits: From his decision and sentence, appeal lies to the Court of Admiralty
in

in London, from the Lords Commissioners of which a Vice-Admiral receives his instructions.

History and Antiquity.

To enter into the field of civil, military, and political affairs of the kingdom at large, would justly be deemed an idle parade of information which may be found in works better adapted to that purpose; we shall, therefore, only trouble the reader with so much as appears necessary to lead us into what more materially concerns this county: Nor shall we herein (as far as our recollection will serve us) repeat those general remarks which occur in the descriptions of the towns and hundreds.

At what period of time Britain was first peopled by the Celts, a tribe of Gauls, is uncertain; as is also what passed among them till the invasion of the Romans under Julius Cæsar, who landed at Deal, in Kent, August 26, fifty-five years before Christ; nor was it till 145 years after this, that Britain was discovered to be—an island.

The first inhabitants of this county, which we read of, were the Iceni, who are generally thought to have possesst as much more as afterwards formed, with this, the kingdom of the East-Angles. Their name remains in several towns of this county, Suffolk, and Cambridge-shire; and the *Icknield-Street* passes through them all. Mr. Camden derives their name from their situation along the ocean in form of a *wedge*, which is the meaning of the British word *Iken*. Tacitus informs us they were a valiant people, and having submitted to the Romans, remained undisturbed till the reign of Claudius Cæsar, when Ostorius, the

the Roman General, disarming them, forced them to rebel. They were scarce reduced before they revolted a second time. Their King Prafutagus thinking to secure tranquillity to his people and family, bequeathed his kingdom to the Emperor Nero. But this was in fact only leaving it as a prey. It was presently plundered by every officer in the Roman army, and the honor of his family violated in the person of his wife Boadicea, and daughters. Enraged at this usage, which was heightened by the usurious exactions of the celebrated philosopher Seneca, the Iceni took up arms under their Queen Boadicea, the widow of Prafutagus, and entering into an alliance with the Trinobantes and other Britons equally aggrieved with themselves, they attacked the Romans, slew 80,000, razed the colony of Camalodurum and the municipium of Verulam, and routed the 9th legion under Catus Decianus. Suetonius-Paulinus the Roman legate was at that time absent; but returning soon after, rallied his scattered legions and met Boadicea in the field at the head of 230,000 Britons. After a vigorous resistance, the Britons were defeated, 80,000 slain, and their magnanimous Queen died soon after of poison, *anno Dni. 59.* From this time we hear no more of the Iceni under the Romans, till the decline of the empire; when their coasts lying open to the continent of Saxony, were so much infested by pirates of that nation, that an officer was appointed on purpose to defend them, under the name of *comes litoris Saxonici*, or Count of the Saxon shore. In 426, the Romans entirely quitted our island. The Britons, after soliciting the aid of Valentinian, by a letter written in the most abject strain, and inscribed, " the Groans of the Britons," entered into an alliance with the Saxons, whose assistance they were in absolute need of, against the invasions of the Scots and

Picts.

Biets. In 449, the Saxons, to the amount of 1,600 men, landed from three small vessels in the Isle of Thanet, and gradually getting footing in Britain, founded seven kingdoms, known by the name of the **HEPTARCHY**, *viz.* Kent, South Saxony or Sussex, West Saxony or Wessex, East Saxony or Essex, Northumberland, East-Angles, and Mercia. The kingdom of the **EAST-ANGLES** was established about the year 575, by *Uffa*, who dying in 578, was succeeded by his son *Titifit*. He died in 599, and was succeeded by his son *Redwald*, an excellent Prince, who embraced Christianity, but relapsed into his former errors at the persuasion of his wife *Wilburga*. He protected *Edwin*, a young Prince driven out by *Ethelfrid*, King of Northumberland, who demanding him to be delivered up, *Redwald* met him in the field and entirely defeated him. He died in 624, and was succeeded by his son *Eorpwald*, a weak Prince, who was converted to Christianity; and, after a reign of nine years, was assassinated by *Richbert*, his relation, in 633, and succeeded by his half-brother *Sigebert*. He was a Christian Prince, and under him the see of *Dunwich* was established by *Felix*, and the first literary seminary, or public school, is said to have been founded at Cambridge. He retired from the fatigues of Government to a monastery, and resigned the Crown in 644, to his kinsman *Egric*. *Penda*, King of Mercia, declared war against the new King, who solicited the assistance of *Sigebert*, and they were both together slain in battle in the said year. The seventh King of the East-Angles was *Anna*, one of the most celebrated Princes of the East-Angles, nephew of *Redwald*, who restored *Kenewall* to the throne of *Wessex*; which was so resented by *Penda*, that he invaded his kingdom, and slew him in 654. *Penda* then set up *Anna's** brother

* *Anna* had six sons and one daughter, *St. Withgith*, or *Withburgh*, buried at *East Dereham*.

ther Ethelbert, who was slain in battle with Oswi, King of Northumberland, in Yorkshire, the next year. The succeeding Kings have so little said of them in history,, that their names must suffice.

- 9 Ethelwald, brother of Ethelbert, from 655 to 664.
- 10 Adulf, his nephew, and son of Ethelbert, to 683.
- 11 Elfwald, his brother, died in 749.
- 12 Beorna and Aldred governed jointly, and Beorna died in 756.
- 13 Etheldred died about 790, succeeded by his son.
- 14 Ethelbert, an excellent Prince, was basely assassinated in 792 by his father-in-law Offa, King of Mercia, who united the kingdom of East-Anglia to his own.

Offa was succeeded by his son Egfer, at whose death in 799, Kenulf, a descendent of Penda, mounted the throne. He reigned a good Prince, and dying about 819, left his son Kenelm a minor, who was murdered by order of his sister, and Ceolwulf had the Crown of Mercia and East-Anglia.

The East-Angles having defeated his successors, elected in 857, for their King, Edmund, who after a reign of 13 years, was defeated and cruelly slain in 870, by the Danes, who had landed in England in 787, and over-ran the kingdom. This Edmund it was who had the crown of the East-Angles bequeathed to him by Offa, and landing from Germany at Hunstanton, in Norfolk, was crowned at Bury. After his defeat near Thetford in 869, he was put to death by the Danes because he would not abjure the christian faith: Hence he has ever been considered as a *Royal Martyr*, and honored with the title of *Saint*.

The several kingdoms of the Saxon Heptarchy were in a state of anarchy and confusion when Egbert ascended the throne of Wessex. He had been brought up in France under Charlemagne, and after his return, in 800, he reduced the Welsh and Cornish-Britons. He also subdued the Mercians, the East-Saxons, and Kent; but the East-Angles declared for Egbert. In this manner were all the kingdoms of the Heptarchy united in one great state, about 400 years after the arrival of the Saxons in Britain, and Egbert, in 828, was crowned at Winchester, "sole Monarch of Britain," when he ordered, by special edict, for the future it should be called ENGLAND.

The Danes now made their appearance on the coast, and having landed at different times, and in different parts of the kingdom, over-run the Anglo-Saxons in a few years. Egbert died Feb. 4, 837, when his son Ethelwolf succeeded to the crown—*of thorns*; for the Danes now proved a powerful enemy, and defeated his troops in many engagements: He died January 13, 857. Ethelbald his eldest son and successor died in 860, and Ethelbert his brother governed; at whose decease, in 860, Ethelred I. his next brother, was crowned. In his reign the Danes spread their conquests over his dominions, but received a severe check from his younger brother Prince Alfred, who had the title of Earl, and assisted him in the field. In 871, the Danes abandoned East-Anglia and advanced into Wessex, where several bloody battles were fought, in one of which Ethelred received a wound which caused his death, and Alfred ascended the throne in 872. This great and virtuous Prince, after many perils and escapes, totally routed the Danes under Guthrum, at Eddington, in Somerset, *anno Dni. 879*, and obliged them to receive baptism, and reside in East-Anglia; which Guthrum held as a feudatory

Prince. Here the Danes built houses, improved lands, were made denizens, and had a short code of laws given them by Alfred ; but notwithstanding this, they revolted.

Alfred, by his moderation and benignity, reduced all his subjects to obedience. He added to his military, a naval force, and formed many wholesome laws, both civil and religious. He instituted an order of knighthood, established a regular militia, and fortified every place. He rebuilt monasteries, churches, &c. and increased London to a flourishing city. He encouraged learning, introduced building with brick and stone, and established three councils for the management of State affairs. He began in 886, and finished in 889 his division of England into counties, hundreds, wapentakes, wards, rapes, &c. and caused a general survey to be made, the rolls whereof were lodged at Westminster, from whence *DOOMSDAY-BOOK* derives its origin.

The Danes had again revolted, but were subdued, and Northumberland and the East-Angles taken into Alfred's government, *anno Dni. 896.* He compiled a body of laws, which were afterwards made use of by Edward the Confessor, and died October 26, 900, aged 51, justly surnamed "*the Great.*"

His son, Edward the Elder, succeeded, at which time England was pretty equally divided between the Anglo-Saxons and Danes, but after various conflicts, he subdued the latter, in which he was much assisted by his heroic sister Elfreda. In 921, the Danes of East-Anglia took the oaths of allegiance to Edward, and in 925 he died. Athelstan, his successor, died in 937, aged 46, when Edmund I. his half-brother, was crowned, but was basely murdered, May 25, 946, aged only 25 ; and his brother Edred succeeded

to the crown. He reigned till November 23, 955, leaving two sons; but his nephew Edwy ascended the English throne: and having resented the insolence of the clergy with more zeal than prudence, they fomented an insurrection, when Edgar, his brother, was placed on the throne of East-Anglia, Mercia, and Northumberland. Edwy died of grief in 959, and Edgar, f暑named *the peaceable*, succeeded him.

In 960 Edgar was rowed down the river Dee by eight tributary Kings, and died in 975, aged 32. Edward *the Martyr*, his natural son, had the crown, but was inhumanly murdered in 979 by Elfrida, his step-mother, whose son, Etheldred II. *the unsteady*, succeeded. At his time the Danes became very troublesome, and in 992 invaded in great force the East-Angles, and afterwards invested London, &c. A land-tax, called Dane-gelt, was levied to satisfy the invaders. In 1003 Etheldred married a daughter of Richard II. Duke of Normandy, and on November 13, he ordered a general massacre of the Danes; to revenge which, Sweyn, King of Denmark, landed in Norfolk, burnt Norwich, Thetford, &c. and proceeded to plunder and destroy in every part. In Kent, 43,000 inhabitants were butchered, and vast sums exacted.

In 1013 Sweyn was proclaimed King of England, but died suddenly next year; and his son Canute finding it difficult to keep the succession, retired to Denmark, and Etheldred II. was restored, but died in 1016, aged 58, when his son, Edmund II. f暑named *Ironside*, assumed the crown; but, in the same year, Canute *the Great* returned, and was proclaimed. These competitors agreed to divide the kingdom, and the Dane held East-Anglia, Mercia, and Northumberland, by conquest. In 1017 Edmund was

assassinated by Elric his brother-in-law, and Canute reigned alone. He divided England into four governments: East-Anglia, with the title of Duke, he gave to Turketel, whom he afterwards banished, and levied a *land-tax*, amounting to 82,000l. to reward his Danish followers. In 1034 he founded the abbey of St. Bennet in the Holme, and died November 12, 1036, being succeeded by his eldest son, Harold I. surnamed *Hare-foot*, who died in 1039. His brother, Canute, or *Hardy-Canute*, next mounted the throne, but died suddenly in 1041; and Edward the *Confessor*, son of Etheldred II. was proclaimed King: He married Editha, daughter of Earl Godwin, whose son, Harold, was Duke of East-Anglia and Essex.

Edward abolished the Dane-gelt, and expelled the Danes. In 1051 William Duke of Normandy paid him a visit, on whom he settled the succession, but Earl Godwin had influence enough to secure it for his own son, Harold, who, on the death of Edward*, January 5, 1066, was crowned. In October following William Duke of Normandy landed at Pavensey, in Sussex, and on the 14th defeated and slew Harold II. at the battle of Hastings.

THUS far we have endeavoured to ground the reader in the general history of the Anglo-Saxon and Danish Sovereigns. Of William the Conqueror and his successors, and the several changes in public affairs, property, &c. our local descriptions are sufficiently copious; we will, therefore, only add a list of such of the Norman followers as had lordships and principal manors in this county granted to them by the Conqueror.

To

* He was canonized for a SAINT, because he first took upon himself to touch for the cure of the EVIL, now called the KING's.

To Hugh de Arbrances, his sister's son, by Richard, surnamed Goz, he gave the Earldom of Chester, to hold by the sword, and with it twelve manors in Norfolk.

To Odo, Bishop of Baieux, in Normandy, by the mother's side his brother, whom he made a Count-palatine, and allowed him power over all the Earls of England and other great men, and to make laws, and administer them as *Justiciarius Angliae*; and more particularly constituted him Earl of Kent; besides other large possessions, he enfeoffed him with twenty-two manors in Norfolk.

To Alan Rufus, or Fergaunt, son of Eudo, Earl of Bretaigne, whom he made Earl of Richmond in Yorkshire, he gave, as the reward of his valor, eighty-one manors in Norfolk.

To Walter Giffard, son of Osborn de Bolbec, and Avelin, his wife, sister of Gunnora, the Conqueror's grandmother, whom he made Earl of Bucks, twenty-eight manors in Norfolk.

To Ralph Waher, or Guader, so called from his castle of Guader, in France, whom he constituted Earl of Norfolk and Suffolk, he gave nine manors in Norfolk.

To William, Earl Warren in Normandy, nephew to the Countess Gunnora before-mentioned, whom he made Earl of Surrey and Arundel, he gave, for his valor, 139 lordships in Norfolk.

To Eudo de Rhye, fourth son of Hubert de Rhye, who, for his fidelity to him, he made his deputy in Normandy, and whose elder son, Hubert, he made Governor of the castle of Norwich, he gave nine manors in Norfolk.

To William de Albini, *Pineerna*, son of Roger de Albini, whom he made his butler, he gave four manors in Norfolk, the possessions of one Edwin, a Danie; besides the lands which he had in this county with Maud, the daughter of Roger Bigot, his wife, which were ten Knight's fees. He held his manor of Buckenham by the service of being "butler to the Kings of England at their coronation."

To Humphry de Bohun, or, *With the Beard*, whom he made Earl of Hereford, being a kinsman of the Conqueror's, and attending him in his expedition hither, he gave one lordship in Norfolk.

To Ralph de Limefi one manor.—To Peter de Valoines twenty lordships.—To Ralph de Baynard forty-four manors.—And to Ralph de Tony, son of Roger de Tony, standard-bearer of Normandy, for his eminent services, nineteen lordships in Norfolk.

The Conqueror having parcelled out the lands and estates of the English, and fixed himself on the throne, he ordered a general survey, in imitation of the roll of Winchester by Alfred, to be taken "of all the lands in the kingdom; their extent in each hundred, or district; their proprietors, tenures, and value; the quantity of meadow, pasture, wood, and arable land, which they contained; and, in some counties, the number of tenants, cottages, and vassals of all denominations who lived upon them. He appointed Commissioners for this purpose, who entered every particular in their register *by the verdict of juries*; and after a labor of six years, they brought him, in 1086, an exact account of all the *landed property* in the kingdom. This monument, called **DOOMSDAY-BOOK**, the most valuable piece of antiquity possessed by any nation, is still preserved in the Exchequer."

Earls

Earls and Dukes of Norfolk.

Under the Saxon monarchy, this county, as well as others, was committed to the government of certain persons of quality, called *Athelings*, (nobles) and *Earls*, now Earls; these were titles both of honor and office; and implied that the parties who bore them, had the charge and custody of the county, and administered justice in it. They were allowed the third penny, or third part of the pleas of the county; the other two parts being received by the *Vicecomes*, or Earl's deputy, (answering to the present High-sheriff) for the King's use, and by him accounted for in the Exchequer.

We have a catalogue of these Earls from the time of Edgar to the Conquest, by the name of Earls of the East-Angles, or Norfolk.

1. *Æthelstan*, farnamed *Half-King*. His wife, *Alfwen*, was nurse to King Edgar; and he had by her four sons, *Ethelwold*, *Alfwold*, *Ethelsin*, and *Aylwin*. He ended his days in *Glastonbury-abbey*, and his wife founded *Chatteris* nunnery in *Cambridgeshire*, where she was buried.

2. *Ethelwold*, son of the former, being employed by King Edgar to solicit the affection of *Elfrida*, daughter of *Orgar*, Earl of *Devon*, he deceived his master, and took her for his own wife. But some time after, inviting the King to the christening of his son, Edgar became so enamoured of *Elfrida*, that he rested not till he found a pretence of getting rid of the Earl by sending him with a public commission into the North, and causing him to be assassinated on his way thither. He then publicly married his widow, and had her crowned, notwithstanding the re-
proaches

proaches of Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury. She bore the King two sons; Edmund, who died in his infancy, and Ethelred, surnamed the *Unready*, his successor.

3. Aylwin succeeded his eldest brother, Ethelwold, in this earldom. He was Alderman of all England, and in 969 founded Ramsey-abbey in Huntingdonshire, where his statue, inscribed *Totius Angliae Aldermannus*, is still to be seen. He died in 993, having had three wives; Ethelflede, who died in 977; Ethelgiva, who died in 985; and Ulgiva, who died in 991. He was succeeded by

4. Ulfketel, who in 1004, when Sweyn, King of Denmark, invaded England, and burnt Norwich, found himself so unprepared to repel the invader, that he made peace with him: But when Sweyn perfidiously burnt Thetford he attacked him, and though he did not gain the victory, he gave the enemy a severe check. He attacked them again in 1010, with the same success, and lost his life in the memorable battle of Ashdown, *anno Dni. 1016*, which left Canute in possession of the kingdom.

5. The next Earl was a Dane, Turketel, or Turkil; who fought with his predecessor in 1010, and afterwards went over from Sweyn to Ethelred, for whom he defended London against the Danes in 1013. Canute, on his accession, advanced him to the earldom, and created him Duke; but the time of his death is uncertain.

6. The sixth Earl was Harold, afterwards King of England, and slain at the battle of Hastings, October 14. 1066.

7. On Harold's succeeding to the government of West-sussex, Kent, &c. Alfgar, son of Leofric, Duke of Mercia, was created Earl of East-Anglia.

William the Conqueror conferred the earldom of Norfolk on one Waher, or Guader, who some of our historians make a native of the county ; others, with more probability, of Bretaigne. He conspired against his benefactor, and when some of the conspirators repented and disclosed the design, he persisted in it, and raised forces, which were defeated, and himself obliged to flee to Denmark. There he persuaded the King's son to come over with a fleet ; but finding William prepared for them, they landed in Flanders. He afterwards took upon him the cross, and died at Jerusalem, in the crusade, under Robert Curthose, Duke of Normandy. Doomsday-book mentions the manors held by him in this county. He left two sons and one daughter, but his estates in this kingdom were forfeited.

The title of Earl of Norfolk was next in the great family of Bigot*. The first of this family that settled in England was Roger, who held several lordships in this county at the survey, and revolted against William Rufus, in behalf of his brother Robert, but adhered faithfully to Henry I. He founded Thetford-abbey, where he was buried, 1107, in the 1st of Henry I. He was succeeded by his son, William Bigot, appointed Steward of the Household to that King, and shipwrecked with the royal children in their passage to Normandy. His brother, Hugh Bigot, succeeded in his office, whom King Stephen

I for

* Bigot, or Bygod, comes from the German, **BEY**, and **GOTT**, or the English, **BY GOD** ! Camden relates, that the Normans were first called **BIGOTS**, on occasion of their Duke Rolio, who receiving Giifa, daughter of King Charles, in marriage, and with her the investiture of the Dukedom, refused to kiss the King's foot in token of subjection, unless he would hold it out for that purpose : and being urged to it by those present, answered hastily, "No ! by God !" whereupon the King turning about, called him **BIGOT** ; which name passed from him to his people.

for his services in advancing him to the Crown of England, had before created Earl of the East-Angles. He was afterwards advanced to the dignity and title of Earl of Norfolk by Henry II. 12. *anno Dni. 1166.*

Roger Bigot, before-mentioned, came over with the Conqueror from Normandy, and had the capital manor and lordship of Fornacet, with all its royalties, &c. granted for his eminent services at the battle of Hastings; but as that lordship has ever since passed with the Earls and Dukes of Norfolk, we must refer the reader to the account of Fornacet, in Depwade hundred, for particulars: Suffice it, in this place, to give an epitomical succession of the EARLS and DUKES of NORFOLK to the present time.

1. Hugh Bigot, created Earl of the East-Angles by King Stephen, 6. 1141; and afterwards Earl of Norfolk by Henry II. 12. 1166. He died in 1177, attainted.

2. Roger Bigot, his son, restored to the Earldom, &c. by Richard I. in 1189, and died in 1220, Henry III. 4.*

3. Hugh Bigot, his son, third Earl of Norfolk, died in 1224, Henry III. 8.

4. Roger Bigot, his son, fourth Earl of Norfolk, died in 1270, Henry III. 54.

5. Roger Bigot, his nephew, fifth Earl of Norfolk, died in 1305, Edward I. 33. without issue, leaving the King his heir, who bestowed the Earldom of Norfolk, and estates, on

1. Thomas Plantagenet de Brotherton, his fifth son, who died in 1338, Edward III. 12.

2. Margaret,

* Roger was one of the Barons who obtained that glorious palladium of English liberty "Magna Charta," from King John, at Runny-mead.

2. Margaret, his daughter and heiress, married to John Lord Segrave, of Folkstone, in Kent, and created Duchess of Norfolk for life, in 1398, Richard II. 21. She died March 24, next year, leaving Elizabeth, her daughter and heiress, married to John Lord Mowbray, whose son,

1. Thomas Mowbray, the first Duke of Norfolk, created by Richard II. before 1386. He was banished in 1398, and died at Venice in 1400. Thomas, his eldest son, was beheaded in 1407, and

2. John Mowbray, his brother, was restored to the Dukedom, &c. in 1425, and died October 19, 1433, Henry VI. 11.

3. John Mowbray, his son, had a confirmation of the title, &c. and died in 1461, Edward IV. 1.

4. John Mowbray, his son, died in 1465, Edward IV. 15. leaving an only daughter, Anne, married to

3. * Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, second son of Edward IV. who, in her right, became Duke of Norfolk, &c. but being, with his brother, Edward V. murdered in the Tower, by their uncle, Richard III. June 18, 1483, the honors and estates devolved on Margaret, a daughter and coheiress of Thomas Mowbray, the first Duke of Norfolk, married to Sir Robert Howard, knt. whose son,

1. Sir John Howard, knt. was created Duke of Norfolk by Richard III. June 28, 1483, and killed in Bosworth-field, August 22, 1483, with that King, and attainted.

2. Thomas Howard, his son, was restored in blood, and created Duke of Norfolk, February 1, 1513. He died May 1, 1524, Henry VIII. 15.

T 2

3. Thomas

* Third of the Plantagenets, Earls or Dukes of Norfolk.

3. Thomas Howard, his son, the third (Howard) Duke of Norfolk, was attainted in Parliament, and died in 1554, Mary, 1.—His eldest son, Henry Earl of Surrey, was beheaded in 1547.

4. Thomas Howard, son of Henry Earl of Surrey, being restored in blood, succeeded his grandfather as fourth Duke of Norfolk, but was beheaded June 2, 1573, Elizabeth, 15.

5. Thomas Howard, son of Philip Earl of Arundel, who was also attainted, and died November 19, 1595, was restored in blood by James I. 1602, and created Earl of Norfolk, June 6, 1644, Charles I. 20. He died in Italy, September 14, 1646, aged 61.

6. Henry Howard, his son, succeeded as Earl of Norfolk, &c. and died April 17, 1652, Charles II. 4.

7. Thomas Howard, his son, was created Duke of Norfolk, October 19, 1672, Charles II. 24. and died without issue, in 1678.

8. Henry Howard, his brother, sixth Duke of Norfolk, died January 11, 1683, Charles II. 35, aged 55.

9. Henry Howard, his son, seventh Duke of Norfolk, died April 2, 1701, William III. 13. without issue, aged 47.

10. Thomas Howard, eldest son of Lord Thomas Howard, brother of the last Duke, succeeded his uncle as eighth Duke of Norfolk, &c. and died without issue, December 23, 1732, George II. 5. aged 49.

11. Edward Howard, his brother, ninth Duke of Norfolk, died without issue, September 20, 1777, George III.

12. Charles Howard, descended from Charles, brother of Thomas, the fifth Duke, succeeded as tenth Duke of Norfolk, and is now living. His Grace is premier Duke, Earl, and Baron of England.

The Liberty of the Duke of Norfolk.

As this liberty is of great extent in the county, and a matter of general information, we will here give an account of its rise and privileges, rather than annex it to any particular town of the liberty.

“ Edward IV. by letters patent under the broad seal of England, dated at Westminster, December 7, 1468, in the 8th year of his reign, granted to John Duke of Norfolk, and Elizabeth, his wife, and their heirs for ever, the return of all writs whatsoever, and of all bills, summons, precepts, and mandates, of the King, and of all acting under him, within the liberty, manors, and hundreds, following, viz. within the manors and demesnes of Fornet, Framlingham *Parva*, Ditchingham *Parva*, Ditchingham, Loddon, Sisland, Halvergate, South-Walsham, Cantley, Strumpshaw, Castor, Winterton, Dickleburgh, Beighton, and Bayfield; also within the whole hundred of Earsham, and the half-hundred of Guiltcross, in the county of Norfolk; and also in the towns, parishes, and demesnes, of Kelsale, Bonnagaie, Peasenhall, Calcote, Stonham, Dennington, Brundish, Ilketshall, and Cratfield, in Suffolk: In the rapes of Lewis and Bramber, and all the parts and parcels thereto belonging, and in the hundred and lordship of Bosham, and the town of Stoughton, in Sussex; in the manor and lordships of Reygate, and Barking, in Surrey; and the town, manor, and lordships of Harwich, and Dovercourt, in Essex; and in all parcels, precincts, and jurisdictions

jurisdictions of all the aforesaid rapes, hundreds, towns, manors, and lordships, so that no Sheriff, or any other officer whatsoever, should enter the said LIBERTY, but that every thing should be transacted by the officers of the said Duke, appointed for that purpose. Furthermore, the King granted to the Duke and his heirs, all manner of fines, profits, amerciaments, penalties, &c. of all residents in the said liberty, with all other things that should accrue to his Royal Crown and dignity, with full power for the Duke's officers to seize for any of them, in as full a manner as the King's officers should have done, if this grant had not been made. Further, the King granted to the said Duke and his heirs, all waifs and strays, felons goods, and forfeitures; and also, that the residents in this liberty should not be sued, or forced to answer in any other court than that of the liberty, for any sum under 40s. And further, the King granted to the said Duke, full power and authority to have his own Coroners and Clerks of the markets in his liberty, with the same power that those officers of the King have in any other place; together with a Steward of the liberty, who shall have power to determine all actions under 40s. so that they arise within the liberty; all which privileges the King confirmed to him, in exchange for the castle, manor, lordship, and burgh of Chepstowe, the manor of Barton, and the manor and lordship of Tuddenham, in the Welsh Marshes, to which all the aforesaid privileges (and much greater) belonged, and had been enjoyed by the Duke and his ancestors, time out of mind; but were now by the Duke, at the King's earnest request, conveyed to William Earl of Pembroke, and his heirs, and a fine levied accordingly: all these liberties and privileges were enjoyed by the said Duke and his successors till the time of Queen Elizabeth, and then were exemplified

signed under seal, at Westminster, the 4th day of July, in the year 1558, at the request of Thomas Duke of Norfolk, who was then seised in fee, and so continued till 1568, when he settled this, among other large estates, on trustees, to his own use for life; but upon the attainder of the Duke, and Philip Earl of Surrey, it was seized by the Crown, where it continued till James I. by letters patent, dated at Westminster, in the year 1602, gave and granted to his faithful Counsellors, Thomas Lord Howard, Baron of Walden, and Henry Howard, brother of Thomas late Duke of Norfolk, and son of Henry late Earl of Surrey, and their heirs, this liberty, with the honor, lordship, and manor of Fornet, and the manors of Earl's, or Little Framlingham, Halvergate, Ditchingham, Sisland, Dickleburgh, Loddon, and Launditch hundred, in Norfolk; the castle, soke, and manor of Bungay, and manor of Cratfield, in Suffolk, (all being part of the possessions of the late attainted Duke) together with all law-days, amerciaments, views of frank-pledge, &c. the one moiety to Thomas Lord Howard, and his heirs, the other to Henry Howard, and his heirs; and on April 3, the year following, the King by other letters patent, granted to Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk, Lord Chamberlain of his Household, and to Henry Compton, Earl of Northampton, Guardian of the Cinque Ports, (those titles being conferred on them in the mean time) and their heirs, the manors and advowsons of Ditchingham, and South-Walsham, late the attainted Duke's; and by other letters patent, dated at Westminster, November 22, in the 6th year of his reign, he gave them the half-hundred of Guiltcross, in Norfolk, and Cratfield and Kelsale manors, in Suffolk, late the said Duke's, with all their liberties, &c. together with the barony, burgh, and manor of Lewes, in Sussex, and the barony and manor of Bramber, with the office of Itinerant

Bailiff,

Bailiff, and of Clerks of the Markets within the said baronies in Sussex, together with Dorking *cum* Capell manor, in Surrey, with all the liberties of the late Duke of Norfolk, as leets, views of frank-pledge, law-days, assize of bread and beer, pleas, waifs, strays, forfeitures of felons, fugitives, deodands, knight's-fees, escheats, heriots, free-warren, return of all writs, precepts, &c. in as full and ample a manner as ever Thomas Duke of Norfolk enjoyed his liberty before his attainder; by means of which grant each of them was seised of a moiety, all which premisses they divided by indenture, dated the 13th day of May following: The manors of Fornet, Ditchingham, Loddon, Sifland, Halvergate, South-Walsham, Launditch hundred, and the half-hundred of Earsham, with the manor of Bungay, were assigned to the Earl of Northampton, and his heirs, of which he died seised in 1613, and they descended to Thomas Earl of Arundel and Surrey, (who was restored in blood in a Parliament at Westminster, March 19, 1602) as cousin and next heir: and after this Henry Earl of Arundel and Surrey, by indenture dated March 1, 1617, purchased to him and his heirs, of the Earl of Suffolk, all his part, right, and estate, in the hundred of Guiltcross; Kelsale and Cratfield manors, in Suffolk; the rapes of Lewes, and Bramber, and No-man's-land, in Sussex; Dorking and Capell manors, in Surrey; the barony, manor, and burgh of Lewes, with the office of Bailiff Itinerant; the manors of Lewisburgh, Rymer, Ilford, Seaford, Meching, Middleton, Brightelmston, the Free-chase called Clers, liberty of the Sheriff's-turn called No-man's-land, Sheffield and Grimstead manors, the barony and manor of Bramber, with the Itinerant Bailiff there; the burgh of Horsham, burgh of Shoreham, and and Beding New-Park, the burgh of Steyning, and the

manor

manor of Sompting-Abbots, the office of Clerks of the Markets in Lewes and Bramber baronies, Sheffield and Lingfield manor, the fourth part of Barking and Capell manors, the Toll-booth of Southwark, and Guildford in Surrey, and all privileges that Thomas late Duke of Norfolk had in the letters patent of Queen Elizabeth; and particularly all those liberties, commonly called the Duke of Norfolk's liberty, by virtue of which Thomas Earl of Arundel and Surrey aforesaid was seised of the whole in fee, and so continued till the 12th of August, 1641, and then he and Alathea Countess of Arundel, his wife, and Henry Lord Mowbray and Maltravers, their eldest son, and heir apparent, and their trustees, settled it (among many other estates) on others in trust, in order that they should make sale of all, or any parcels of the said baronies, lands, tenements, hereditaments, liberties, advowsons, &c. aforesaid, and that the money from thence raised should be by them applied to pay the debts of Thomas late Earl of Arundel and Surrey, and the overplus to remain to the Lord Maltravers, and whatever remained unfolded after the debts paid, they were to stand seised of to the use of the Lord Maltravers, and his heirs; and soon after, 1669, (the debts being paid) it was again vested in the Howard family, the Duke of Norfolk being now Lord, who nominates a Steward and Coroner, and keeps a gaol for debtors, either in Lopham or elsewhere, as he pleases*.

* This account is taken from a manuscript, containing an exemplification of all the grants of the privileges of the liberty, which is now in the hands of the Steward.

Liberty of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Besides the liberty of the Duke of Norfolk in this county, there is that of the Duchy of Lancaster, the court of which is kept at Aylsham.—*Curia ducatus Lancastriensis.*

“ It continued in the Crown till 1371, when it was first made parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster by the King’s giving it to his son, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and the heirs of his body, and from that time Aylsham became the head, or principal town of that Duchy, in this county.

“ This John took his name from the town of Gaunt, where he was born, being fourth son to Edward III. and was created Earl of Richmond in 1342, the revenues of which Earldom he then exchanged with the King: This man was King of Castile and Leon, Duke of Guienne, Aquitaine, and Lancaster, Earl of Richmond, Derby, Lincoln, and Leicester, and High-Steward of England: he had three wives; first,

“ Blanch, daughter and coheiress of Henry Duke of Lancaster, by whom he had, 1st, Henry, afterwards King of England; 2d, Philippa, wife to King John of Portugal; 3d, Elizabeth, married to John Holland, Duke of Exeter.

“ His second wife was Constance, daughter and one of the coheiresses of Peter King of Castile, by whom he had issue, Catherine, married to Henry, son of John King of Spain, with the title to the kingdoms of Castile and Leon.

“ His

" His third wife was Catherine, daughter of Pain Roet, alias Guien, King of Armes, and widow of Sir Otes Swynford, Knt. by whom he had issue before marriage, 1st, John, furname Beaufort, Earl of Somerset, and Marquis of Dorset; 2d, Henry Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, Cardinal of St. Eusebius, and Chancellor of England; 3d, Joane Beaufort, first married to Ralph Nevile, Earl of Westmoreland, and after to Lord Robert Ferrers.

" He died seised of the Duchy in the 22d of Richard II. 1398, being the greatest subject of the English crown; so great, that "*as great as John of Gaunt*" then was, and still remains, one of our English proverbs. At his death, Catherine, his widow, held it for life, and at her death, Henry Plantagenet, son and heir of John of Gaunt, inherited it, who being crowned King by the name of Henry IV. united the whole inheritance of Lancaster unto the Crown, since which, the ducal title of Lancaster hath been drowned in the title of the regal dignity. But, in honor of the House of Lancaster, this King instituted the Duchy-Court; to the end, the lands belonging to the Duchy might in all following times be distinguished and known from the lands of the Crown."

Aylsham being the capital manor of the Duchy, the Duchy-Court hath been always held there; and whereas, the privileges belonging to those tenants are large, it will not be amiss to speak of them here.

" Upon the erection of the Duchy-Court by Henry IV. May 4, in the 3d year of his reign, *anno 1401*, the charter of the Duchy was confirmed by King and Parliament, which sets forth, that

" Edward III. granted for him, and his heirs and successors, to John of Gaunt, Duke of Acquitaine and Lancaster, and Blanch, his wife, that they and the heirs of their bodies, and all their tenants of the lands and fees, which were in the possession of Henry Earl of Lancaster, in the sixteenth year of Edward III. anno 1341, should be for ever free from panage, passage, paage, laftage, stallage, tallage, carriage, pesage, picage, and ferage, throughout all England, and other places in the King's dominion ; and Richard II. granted to the said Duke all fines, forfeitures, and amerciaments, of what kind or nature soever, of all his men and tenants in the said lands or fees, and all estray and wastes whatsoever in the said fees; together with all forfeitures for murder and felony committed in the said fees, or by tenants in the fees in other men's lands; and also all the goods of *felons de se*, and forfeitures to the Clerk of the Markets, in as ample a manner as the said King had them before this grant; and further, the said King granted the assize of bread, wine, and beer, and all victuals, to be under a Clerk of the Markets, appointed by the said Duke, and that the King's Clerks of the Markets shall not enter the fees to exercise any jurisdiction there, and that the said Duke should have the chattles of all fugitives and outlaws in the said fees; the said Duke was also to have execution by his own officers of all writs, summonses, processes, extracts, and precepts, so that no Sheriff, Bailiff, or other officer of the King, was to enter into the liberty, or exercise any office or jurisdiction therein, unless in default of due execution by the proper officers of the liberty; the said Duke was also to have waif and stray, deodands, and treasure found in the liberty, &c. and Henry IV. confirmed the whole by consent of Parliament, and ordained for himself and heirs,

“ heirs, that in the whole Duchy of Lancaster all these
 “ royal franchises, privileges, and grants, should for ever
 “ stand valid, and in full force, and be executed by the
 “ proper officers of the Duchy ; and Edward IV. in the
 “ first year of his reign, confirmed all the liberties to the
 “ tenants of the Duchy, as did many of the succeeding
 “ Kings, so that there are now proper officers, as Co-
 “ roners, Stewards, Clerks of the Markets, &c. ap-
 “ pointed for the liberty of the Duchy in the several coun-
 “ ties it extends into.”

The chief town of the *barony or honor of Rhye, or de Rbia*, in this county, is Hingham: The court of the *fee or capital lordship of Richmond* is held at Swaffham, and, *the honor of Clare* is a liberty lately revived.

*Air, Soil, Produce, Manufactures, Manners,
 &c. &c.*

The air of this county is of various temperatures in the several parts thereof. By the sea-side it is unwholesome and aguish, particularly so in the hundreds of Flegg and Freebridge-Marshland, where the soil is boggy andousy; (so that it is common to say of a stranger, at his first coming into the county, *that he is arrested by Bailiff of Marshland*) and not much better in the towns bordering on Lynn-deep; but as to those parts of the county lying upon the sea-shore, there is no great reason to suppose them very unhealthy, because the sea-coasts are for the most part sandy, and do not suck in nor retain the salt water, as the marshes in Essex and Kent do, which makes the air so corrupt. The inland part of the county being open, is extremely pleasant and salutary, as may be inferred from the many seats of the Nobility and Gentry in it. The soil

soil in Norfolk is so extremely various, that it has been considered as an epitome of the whole island. Every part of the county, however, produces either corn or pasture; so that even the worst soil is far from unprofitable. Great quantities of corn are annually produced from the well-cultivated fields.

As to the soil, Dr. Fuller speaks very truly of it, saying, " All England may be carved out of Norfolk, being represented in it, not only as to the kinds but degrees thereof; for here are fens and heaths, light and deep, sand and clay-grounds, meadow-lands, pastures, and arable, wood-lands and woodless, so taking the country altogether, it affords enough for pleasure and profit; that being supplied in one part which is defective in another." The fens and marsh-lands are exceeding profitable.

" The plain, says Camden, called Tilney-Smeeth, not above two miles over, affords sufficient feed for the larger cattle of seven villages and three thousand sheep. It is so boggy, that it is made useful only by a multitude of cuts and drains, over which there are laid one hundred and eleven bridges. The heathy and sandy lands are barren, but serve for two purposes that enrich the inhabitants: First, for harbouring and nourishing rabbits, whose flesh is not only a tender and delicate food, but their skins valuable: Secondly, for feeding sheep, which loving a short grass, delight much in such places. Among our sheep-masters there seems to be a kind peculiar to this county, commonly called *Norfolks*, which are an hardy strong sheep, and bear good fleeces: these sheep in general have black noses and black feet. The heaths, by maintaining great flocks of them, which are continually on them, grazing and folded,

are

are made almost as profitable to the people as the tilled ground, supplying them with good mutton and wool; and at the same time so enriching the ground by their dung and folding, that being ploughed up it produces good quantities of corn.

“ Some villages keep 5000 sheep, the woollen manufacture of this county being a great encouragement to husbandmen to enlarge their flocks; and rabbets being a proper improvement for hilly and rocky grounds. The people also are diligent in nourishing and increasing bees, insomuch that honey in these parts is very plentiful.

“ The light, deep, and clay-grounds are very fruitful in divers sort of grain, as rye and pease, wheat and barley; and near Walsingham it produces very good saffron*. About Winterton, in West Flegg, the fields are looked upon by the skilful in husbandry to be the fattest and lightest in all England, as requiring the least labor, and bringing the greatest increase; for they plough with but one horse†, yet seldom fail of a plentiful crop. By the rivers, which are four or five principal ones, (besides many rivulets and brooks) as the Yare, the Bure, the Thurn, the Waveney, the greater and lesser Ouse, there are many fine meadows and pastures. Near the towns are many springs, groves, and copses, but the champaign country is bare of wood. Mines or minerals here are none, not so much as of coals or stone, but we meet with a sort of clay almost of equal value. A gentleman of this county digging by chance in his ground, turned up a fine clay, which some skilful per-

fons

* Of this Mr. Camden must have been misinformed. Erasmus calls Walsingham *PARATHALASSA*, from its nearness to the sea.

† As Pliny says of Bizacium in Africa, “ it may be ploughed with a horse of any sort, and an old woman drawing against him.”

sons observing, discovered the value of it to him; whereupon sending it into Holland, where they made a choice sort of earthen ware of it, he made 10,000l. sterling of a piece of ground not forty yards square*." Dr. Fuller tells this story, but suspects the sum, as having a cypher too much, which, though true, does not altogether detract from its worth.

Camden mentions "the catching of Hawks,—the abundance of fish,—with the jett and amber commonly found upon the coast of Hunstanton."

Of the natural produce of this county, rabbits is no inconsiderable article. At *Methwold* the best rabbits in England are bred, and are called by the poulters "Mewill rabbits." It has been remarkable for breeding these creatures ever since the reign of Canute, (1016 to 1036) and at present sends great numbers of them to the London markets. From Beecham-well the markets in Norfolk are supplied. Great numbers are also bred about Castle-Rising, Thetford, Winterton, and Sheringham.

The rabbits of this county are of a fine silver-coloured bluish-grey, the fur or wool of which in the strength and staple of it, is not equalled by any other, Lincoln excepted, and is therefore procured by all manufacturers, in order to mix with the produce of other counties, more closely to unite and strengthen the manufacture of hats.

The butter and wool markets in Norfolk are very considerable, particularly at Downham, Watton, Stoke-Ferry, Swaffham, Wisbech, and Brandon.

WYMONDHAM

† Here again, we think, Mr. Camden must err.

WYMONDHAM was remarkable for its manufacture of wooden-ware, as spindles, spoons, spiggots and faucets, &c. but the inhabitants are now principally employed in the Norwich stuff trade.

REEPHAM, and many places in this county, are famous for making barley-malt, of which great quantities are bought by the London dealers.—We wish we could say as much in praise of the malt-liquor brewed in Norfolk.

NORWICH, though one of the first manufacturing towns in England, hath a great part of the labor done in the country towns all over the county of Norfolk, and even in Suffolk. Here vast quantities of worsted-stuffs, bays, serges, shalloons, crapes, camblets and druggets, duffields and fearnoughts are made, besides many other curious articles; from the sale of which above two hundred thousand pounds are annually received by this city.—[The reader will find this more fully explained in our History of Norwich, vol. X. of this work.]

YARMOUTH is renowned for its fishery of herrings and mackarel, besides cod, haddocks, &c. in their proper seasons. Great quantities of herrings are cured here, and the shipping carry on the trade of the Norwich manufactures to the Baltic, Ostend, &c. Immense quantities of flour, malt, &c. are exported, and the import is very considerable,—of coals, deals, wine, groceries, and naval stores.

AYLSHAM is said to carry on a considerable manufacture in making of stockings.

CROMER is noted for its plentiful fishery of lobsters, which are sent to the markets in Norfolk, and to London, &c.

BURNHAM produces an oyster of a large size in abundance, which is sent into several counties west of Lynn. This and the neighbouring ports carry on a good corn trade.

WORSTED, now a small town, gave name to the manufacture of that stuff, but is now quite destitute of employ. Dornicks, cameric, calecut, &c. had in like manner their denomination from the places they were first invented and made.

BRANCASTER exports corn and malt, and here is the largest malt-house in England.

BLAKENEY and CLEY are also fishing towns.

LYNN-REGIS is a port of great trade: the very valuable cargoes of wine, timber, coal, and foreign spirits, brought in here is immense, as is also the export of corn, &c. and its commerce by inland navigation is equal to any in the kingdom. Spelman says of Lynn, " that Ceres and Bacchus seem to have established their magazines here."

THETFORD carries on a considerable branch of the woollen trade. It has also a paper-mill, and does a good deal of business by the navigation of the Ouse river.

SWAFFHAM, say many geographers, was famous for a considerable manufactory in the making of spurs, but this does not now, and, we believe, *never* did exist—but in the
brain

brain of some ill-informed writer. Physicians call this place " the Montpellier of England."

WELLS carries on a considerable corn trade when the ports are open for exportation, as vast quantities are sold by the farmers to the merchants here. The coal and raff-trade is also good.

FAKENHAM, says an English traveller, was noted in former times for its salt-pits, although it is ten miles from the sea. Nothing yet appears to induce us to believe this.

DISS, HARLESTON, and HARLING, are remarkable only for the manufacture of linen yarn and cloth.

Fires have done more towards beautifying many of the towns in Norfolk than any other cause. Without this calamitous element neither Swaffham, East-Dereham, Watton, Hingham, nor Wymondham, would have been remarked for their neatness, handsome buildings, or fashionable inhabitants. As a sudden inundation of water sometimes carries away bridges which were perilous to travellers, so an accidental conflagration levels buildings, which a taste for improvement and personal safety had long yearned to see removed.

The waters, both salt and fresh, yield very great convenience to the inhabitants by fish and navigation. On the sea-coasts is the herring-fishery, which brings so much trade and wealth to Yarmouth. It begins in September, when that fish* generally swarms upon these shores.

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* HERRINGS, for so they generally call them, says Camden, though the learned think them to be the CHALCIDES and the LEUCOMANIDES.

They come by the north of Scotland in vast shoals, and pass through the narrow seas by the Land's-end of Cornwall, and what are not catched return into the north again. Mackarel here are also catched in the spring in great numbers; so that the sea brings this county, besides the ordinary and daily markets for fish in the villages and towns by the sea-side, two great fairs of herrings and mackarel.

Nor do the fresh waters of this county yield less profit to the inhabitants. The Bure is full of fish, and by its overflowing the lower grounds, makes not only rich meadows, but many noble fisheries. In it are found a most excellent sort of perch. The inhabitants of Ranworth, which stands near to the river, report, that one hundred and twenty bushels of fish were catched there by two nets at one time. The like are the Ouse, Waveney, and Yare, in which last there is a peculiar fish, called a *ruffe*; and because the English by that word express the Latin *asperum*, John Caius termed it *Aspredo*. The body of this fish is all over rough, with sharp prickles and prickly fins. It delights in sandy places like the perch, and is of nearly the same bigness. Its colour on the back is brown and dusky, but on the belly it is of a pale yellow. It is marked on the jaws with double semicircular rings; the upper part of the eye of a dark brown colour, the lower yellow, and the ball of it black; and a line goes along the back, and is fastened to the body, as if it were a thread; the tail and fins are spotted with black. When this fish is angry the fins stand up stiff, and fall flat again when its anger is over. The flesh of it is very wholesome, and eats tender and short, being in this last respect much like a perch. It is very rarely found in any other rivers.

The inhabitants of this county are strong and robust, sharp and cunning. The food of the commonalty consists much of puddings and dumplings, which has produced the proverb of *Norfolk dumplings*, as the eating beans so much in Leicestershire has proverbially nick-named the people *Leicestershire Bean-bellies*, and in Lincolnshire *Yellow-bellies*. Nor need they be ashamed of their food, it being certainly the wholesomest and most nourishing to the human body.

“ The inhabitants of Norfolk, says the writer of the English Traveller, have been long celebrated for their healthy constitutions, which is said to be owing to their eating such vast quantities of dumplings, that the expression, *dumpling*, of late has become a proverbial phrase, when the people in other parts speak of a Norfolk man. It is no uncommon thing for them to take a dumpling, after it is well boiled, and having dipped it in goose’s grease, immediately eat it, as pleasantly as if it were the most delicious morsel in the universe,

“ It is, however, a rule, both in physic and the *Materia Medica*, that if people will habituate themselves to the eating of grosser sorts of food than common, they must join to it strong exercise, otherwise there immediately ensues a stagnation of the fluids, which either ends in a corruption of the internal parts, or operates on the external surface, in such a manner as to deform the appearance, and render the whole of the human body extremely disagreeable. However, for all that, the people in Norfolk are as healthy as any of their neighbours; but whether in consequence of an additional degree of exercise, or from what other cause, we are not able to learn.”

“ Mr.

“ Mr. Camden hath a piece of natural history of this country, “ that it is a nursery of attorneys, and that the country people have a great genius to that sort of polemical learning.” And this, says Bishop Gibson, is confirmed by Spelman and Speed. “ The *Norfolk* men are counted industrious, and generally so successful in the study of the common law, that most people wish rather to have a *Norfolk* man their counsel—than adversary*.” From Varro he observes “ that the goodness of the soil may be collected from the bright, clear complexion of the inhabitants; not to mention their shortness of wit, and singular capacity in the study of our common law.” By goodness of soil, both Varro and himself must mean healthful, he could not otherwise have singled out Norfolk for what the present age calls good. The wholesome air may naturally produce a sharpness of wit; but Henry the Sixth’s act against the exercise of it, restraining the number of attorneys, hath given it another turn. Nature seems to have designed this county for health and rural diversions, as much as any in the island; and though it produceth not crops equal to a better staple, it hath the advantage of navigation in lieu of it. The lands by new improvements of sowing grafs and turnips, have cleared up the complexion of the husbandman; and the vast numbers of sheep kept here at a small expence, especially since they have a winter feed of turnips for them, stock the counties quite to London, and bring in a good profit. It is *Verecum patria*, but not *craffo sub aere*. The reason of the free growth of the law here must have been the plenty of copyholders, and the chance to come in for court-keeping; as the plenty of hares here produces plenty of greyhounds. The beauty and agreeableness of these plains is exceeded by none†.

This

* Geographical Dictionary.

† Salmon’s New Survey of England, page 163.

This county hath some herbs peculiar to itself, or very rarely found, growing wild, in other counties, as

1. *Artiplex Maritima*, &c. Sea-Orrache, with small basil leaves, found near Lynn-Regis.
2. *Acorus Verus*, &c. The sweet-smelling flag or calamus, found in the river Yare, near Norwich.
3. *Lycchnis Viscosa*, &c. The Spanish catchfly, found near Thetford, plentifully.
4. *Spongia Ramosa Fluvialis*, Branched river-spunge, found in the river Yare, below Norwich.
5. *Turritis*, Tower-mustard, found in the hedges, near Acle.
6. *Verbascum Pulverulentum*, &c. Hoary mullein, about the walls of Norwich.
7. *Vermicularis Furex Minor*, Shrub stone-crop, found on the sea-coast of Norfolk.
8. *Urtica Romana*, The Roman nettle, growing about Yarmouth.
9. *Medica Sylvestris*, Wood-claver, a different sort, with a purplish flower, like Burgundy trefoil or saintfoil, observed to grow in the highway, a little distance from Norwich. The common sort usually bears a yellow flower.
10. *Ebolum*, found in South Creak, called by the inhabitants Dane-blood, as if it were the product of the blood spilt here in an engagement between the Danes and Saxons.
11. *Wild Pints*, found near Norwich.
12. *Venus's Looking-glass*, near Cromer.
13. *Butter*.

13. *Butter-wort*, on the heaths in general.
14. *Lesser-headed Milford*, near Castor.
15. *Dwarf Elder*, near Norwich.
16. *Hog's Fennel*, near Yarmouth.
17. *Black currants*, near Horsford.
18. *Cran-berries*, in many different parts.
19. *Small Corn-catchfly*, in the fields near Norwich.
20. *Great Booterd*, near Wells.
21. *Common Club Moss*, in many places.
22. *Sea Ragged Staff*, near Cley.
23. *Spleen-wort*, on many country church-walls.
24. *Salid Puff-ball*, in Holkham Park.
25. *Smooth Chara*, near Heydon.

The inhabitants of Norfolk are so much attached to the *sports of the field*, that the *turf* is not much encouraged. Few or no Gentlemen in the county keep running-horses, and the annual races at Swaffham, and at Thetford, are attended chiefly by Ladies and Gentlemen on parties of pleasure, and, as a festive meeting more than to *pick pockets*; for such we deem all games—but *games of chance*. Cock-fighting (for the honor of Norfolk) is not much followed: Nor do we find any irrational exercise, if we except kemping and wrestling, in practice. By the bye, we do not feel a *penchant* for hunting, shooting, nor fishing—as *SPORTS*: Nor do we think they can be justified on any principle of natural or revealed reason: But *fashion*, that *hydra* of folly, and custom, that established law of fools, will *concile*

concile the greatest absurdities ! Religion and morality forbids taking any life *wantonly*, yet leave a discretionary power of doing it *necessarily*. Those fierce and sanguinary animals that inhabit the forest are fair game for man, but what have we to apprehend from the affrighted hare, the fresh-water fish, the beautiful pheasant, or partridge ? Nature, nay, humanity, recoils at the idea of their destruction—*in sport*. That their lives should be taken *necessarily* we admit, but let it not be done—*in sport*. The untutor'd native of the Asiatic plains, or mountains of America, would not kill—but for food and for raiment, or in self-defence.

The author of a late dramatic production has portrayed the character of a tenacious “ Lord of the Manor,” with respect to *game*, in colours so just and lively, that we cannot forbear adding his to our own observations.

_____. “ Searchum, get warrants immediately for seizing guns, nets, and snares, let every dog in the parish be collected for hanging to-morrow morning—give them a taste of Norfolk discipline.

_____. “ I hope, Sir, you will be better advised than to proceed so rashly.

_____. “ Where is your qualification ?

_____. “ In my birth-right as a free-man.—Nature gave the birds of the air in common to us all ; and I think it no crime to pursue them, when my heart tells me I am ready, if called upon, to exercise the same gun against the enemies of my King and country.

_____. “ Take notice that I require unconditional submission in my supremacy of the game.

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“ In

— . “ In what manner, Sir ?

— . “ The county gaol shall teach transgressors—thanks to my fellow sportsmen in the Senate, we have as good a system of game laws as can be found in the most gentleman-like country upon the continent.

— . “ By gentleman-like I am afraid, Sir, you mean arbitrary.

— . “ In France the insignia of a Lord Paramount of the chace are gallowses, with his arms upon every hill in his estate—they embellish a prospect better than the finest clump Browne ever planted.”

* * * * *

Besides the established church, there are in Norfolk meeting-houses for Presbyterians, Anabaptists, Quakers, Independents, Methodists, &c. and in Norwich there is a church for the Dutch, and another for French-Flemings; also, chapels for Roman Catholics.

The quarter-sessions for the county of Norfolk are held in the Shire-house on the Castle-hill of Norwich four times a year, viz. in January, April, July, and October. The summer assizes, and monthly county-courts, are also held in the Shire-house. The Castle is the county-gaol for debtors and felons, and although in the centre of Norwich, belongs to, and is within the jurisdiction of Norfolk only. It was first committed to the custody of the High-sheriff of the county of Norfolk, as a common prison, in the 1st year of Edward IV. 1460.

In 1284, Edward I. 12. a statute passed, making the hundreds in each county answerable for all robberies committed in day-time.

In 1251, Henry III. 35. this county, and most parts of England, was visited by a severe drought, succeeded by damp

umps and foul air, which brought on contagious disorders amongst the cattle, and ruined the harvest; in so much, that a dreadful famine and plague ensued.

The following are the prices of certain articles at different periods of time, *estimated according to the value of the present money*:

In 930, a sheep, 12s. 6d. the fleece, 5s.—an ox, 3l. 15s.—a cow, 2l. 10s.—a horse, 18l.—nursing of a child the first year, 4l. In 966, an acre of land, 10s.—a palfrey, 6l. In 980, an ox, 3l. 15s.—a cow, 3l. In 1252, a good horse, 15l. In 1327, an ox, lean, 2l. 8s.—fat, 3l. 12l.—a fat hog, two years old, 10s.—a fat weather-sheep, unshorn, 5s.—shorn, 3s. 6d.—a fat goose, 7d. $\frac{1}{2}$ d.—ditto capon, 6d.—ditto hen, 3d.—two chickens, 3d.—four pigeons, 3d.—twenty-four eggs, 3d. In 1450, wheat, 3l. 6s. 8d. per quarter—barley 1l. 10s. In 1547, beef and pork, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.—mutton and veal, $\frac{5}{6}$ d. per lb. In 1620, the pay of a foot soldier, 8d. a day—a Lieutenant, 2s.—an Ensign, 1s. 6d.—a cock turkey, 4s. 6d.—a hen ditto, 3s.—a goose, 2s.—a capon, 2s. 6d.—a pullet, 1s. 6d.—a rabbet, 8d.—a dozen pigeons, 6s.—wheat, 32s. per quarter.—barley, 16s.—wool, a third more than the present price—a yard of velvet, 1l. 2s.—fine Holland, 8s. per yard.

N. B. From the Conquest to the reign of Elizabeth, money was nearly ten times its present value; from Elizabeth to the present time, nearly equal.

Norfolk is, generally speaking, a cheap and plentiful county. The gentry live in a splendid and hospitable manner; the tradesmen and farmers exceed those of any other county, in what is termed *good living*; and the laborer and mechanic come in for a comfortable share *of the*

loaves and fishes. The inhabitants of Norfolk, says Mr. B. Martin, are remarkable for the sprightliness of their genius, industry, and riches, and are, for the most part, strong, healthy, and well made.

The markets are regularly and plentifully supplied with provisions of every kind, and no county in the kingdom produces poultry in such abundance, nor of such quality; —as few of the citizens of London but can testify. Poultry and game to an immense value are sent in presents annually from the inhabitants of this county to their friends in London, and its environs, particularly at Christmas. The pork of this county is much admired by the epicurean connoisseurs; and culinary vegetables and roots (if we except potatoes) are excellent. We have already observed that the malt liquor of Norfolk is worse than in most other counties, but this must be understood of the *common* breweries; as no better ale can be met with in any part of the kingdom than is made at the houses of private families.

For the better support, maintenance, and relief of the poor of both sexes and all ages, *Houses of Industry* have been erected and regulated by Acts of Parliament, at Gressenhall for the hundreds of Launditch and Mitford, at Wicklewood for Forehoe, at Rollesby for East and West Flegg, and at Heckingham for the hundred of Loddon. Mr. Gilbert* has lately brought into Parliament a bill for extending, and for better regulating Houses of Industry throughout the kingdom, which, we doubt not, will meet with that investigation and improvement a business of so much importance merits, from the guardians of the people.

Norfolk hath produced as many great and eminent personages in war, law, learning, and politics, as most counties;

* Member for Litchfield.

ties ; and very few can boast so many ancient and honorable families : Indeed, this remark receives additional lustre when we consider, that personal worth and great abilities, and not high-sounding titles, are the distinguishing cast which characterizes the gentry of Norfolk.

Lord Chief-justice Coke was perhaps the greatest lawyer, and Sir Robert Walpole the greatest statesman any country hath bred. Sir Henry Spelman as an antiquary, Sir John Fastolf as a warrior, and Sir Roger L'Estrange as a poet, will live in the annals of this country—to perpetuity.

The particular history of each town in the county will furnish the reader with anecdotes of the lives, achievements, and writings of those men who were born, or inherited property therein. Of the ancient families of Norfolk many are now quite gone, and their names extinct : others are so far removed, and spread into collateral branches, as scarcely to leave a trace to the origin.

Although Norfolk hath the fewest Peers *residing* in it of any county of its size and consequence in the kingdom, yet it can boast of having the *Premier* Duke, Earl, Baron, and Baronet, of England.

It was observed to us by a very respectable gentleman, lately deceased, that there are in Norfolk more *resident proprietors* of four hundred pounds a year, landed estate, than in any other county in England ; for which he instanced the number of gentlemen qualified to be Deputy Lieutenants.

Amongst the seats of the nobility and gentry in Norfolk, none are more worthy of particular notice than Houghton, Holkham, Rainham, Blickling, Melton-Constable, Wolterton,

terton, and Kimberley, for dignity, elegance, and extent. Langley, Gunton, Felbrigg, Garboldisham, Buckenham-house, Westacre, Cossey, Hethel, Heydon, Merton, Oxburgh, Kirby-Bedon, Narborough, Narford, West-Tofts, Bixley, Ditchingham, Harling, Quidenham, Elmham, Westwick, Beeston St. Lawrence, Witton, Earsham, Shadwell-Lodge, Warham, Lynford, Horingham, Rackheath, Raveningham, Pickenham, Sandringham, Eccles, and many others, are deservedly esteemed for the taste in which they are embellished.

This county abounds with many ancient castles and manorial-houses, formerly the seats of great and able men; who, according to the custom of the times, lived in that style of magnificence which their wealth, power, or disposition, rendered habitual. The unsettled state of public affairs, the extreme ignorance of the bulk of the people, and the vast powers given to the Lord over the feudatory, were strong incentives to acts which would now be condemned—as arbitrary and unconstitutional! The bare mention of *villainage, and liberty of gallows*, makes a modern Briton shudder with indignant sympathy for those mortals who were obliged to bend to the manners of the feudal times.—How much happier are we in the present age, who feel a consequence which neither wealth, power, nor disposition, can annoy—even in the humblest state of society.

Though Kenninghall, Castle-Rising, Wood-Rising, and Blickling, have occasionally been the residence of royalty since the Conquest, yet Thetford seems to have been the only scite of a *palace*. Henry I. built a country seat there, which remained till the reign of James I. when
it

it was pulled down, and one more magnificent built in its room, still known by the name of the *King's-House*.

The Bishops of Norwich had formerly a palace at Ludham, which was granted to the see by Henry VIII. but on August 10, 1611, it was consumed by fire, and the diocefian palace is now at Norwich.

Of the most remarkable buildings in the county we have illustrated their descriptions by views, drawn and engraved for that purpose. Perspective delineations of the religious and castelled houses, now ruinous, have also been published by S. and N. Buck, F. Grosse, —— Millecent, T. Kirkpatrick, &c. and others are now publishing.

Mr. Richard Gough, in his “Anecdotes of British Topography,” hath given the world a very copious collection of manuscripts and prints of the history, antiquities, surveys, &c. of Norfolk, which we, at first sight, meant to have methodized and improved for a section of this work; but we afterwards found the materials so diffuse, and many of them trifling,—to an extreme disgraceful to polite literature, that we laid aside our intention—to make room for more *useful* information.

This county not only contains the greatest number of parish-churches of any in the three kingdoms, but also exceeds any other in population; and the vast resources the army finds by the recruiting service is almost beyond conception:—And no men make better soldiers.

Though longevity is one of those blessings which are the result from a light soil and pure air, yet we do not find instances of very long life in Norfolk: People live to what is called *a good round age*. At Rome, anno Dni. 47, several

several persons were found, on examination, to be from 100 to 140 years old, and two were advanced to 150. In 1635 Thomas Par died in England, aged 153. He lived in ten reigns.

Lands, Culture, &c.

This county may be considered as naturally consisting of four different sorts of land, *viz.* the *sand-land*, the *wood-land*, the *marsh-land*, and the *fielding*. The **SAND-LANDS** lie chiefly about Castle-Rising, Darsingham, and Snettisham;—about Methwold, Weeting, Croxton, and Thetford.

A considerable tract of land between Cromer and Cley may be called sand-land: As also, that to the south and west of Swaffham. In the neighbourhood of Norwich are several lands inclining to the sand-land; and at Rougham we have seen a piece *drift*. What is called the Meals, or Marum-hills, along the coast from Yarmouth to Happisburgh, and from Cley harbour to Hunstanton are composed of sea-sand.

The **WOOD-LANDS** are various, and difficult to distinguish; for, there are few woods of extent; and trees only in hedge-rows, which viewed at some distance, optically, gives the country the appearance of being woody. The hundreds of South Erpingham, Eynsford, Humbleyard, Wayland, Guiltcross, Clavering, and Earsham, contain much wood, as do also many parts of the other hundreds. Of modern plantations, the north-west and south-west parts of the county exceed the rest;—and yet, a vast deal more *is that way* might be done—to great advantage. What is called

called the wood-land part is generally dirty, but is very rich and fruitful.

The MARSH-LANDS, besides that whole tract of country comprehended in the Bedford-level, and in Freebridge-Marshland, extends from Yarmouth up the rivers Bure, Waveney, and Yare, to Coltishall, Bungay, and Norwich; and also up the Thurn and Ant. Both salt and fresh marshes are to be met with on the coast, particularly between Hunstanton and Blakeney, and from Snettisham to Walpole. The marsh-lands are naturally fruitful, feeding great numbers of sheep and oxen; and sometimes, when ploughed, afford greater crops of corn than any other land; but many of the marshes in Flegg and Happening being common-land, are much neglected—through obstinacy and illiberal prejudices.

The FIELDING part of Norfolk, though daily decreasing, is still very great: in Smithdon, Brothercross, Grimshoe, North Greenhoe, Freebridge-Lynn, and Shropham; and in Blofield, Walsham, and Loddon, it is chiefly; and, we hope to find less of it in a few years. Some parts of it is in sheep-walk, and the rest affords good corn; but the tillage is both troublesome and expensive, on account of the vast number of small pieces into which property is divided.

Of ARABLE and HEATH-LANDS. The arable is in many places naturally good for tillage, and produces abundant crops of all sorts of corn and grain; and where it seems in a manner barren, it is fit for improvement by chalk, clay, marle, and crag. The heath-lands are in general good sheep-walk, but might be turned to greater

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advantage by tillage-enclosure ; but, so tenacious are the lower class of people of what *they* esteem their " rights and privileges," that few gentlemen have as yet dared to " do as they pleased with their own property :" And those few wh^o have, met with so much opposition, that others have sacrificed their own judgment and interests to *popular* clamour.

The heath and marsh COMMONS in Norfolk may reasonably be computed at 100,000 acres ; two-thirds of which consist of the best land, either for grazing, or tillage, yet allowed to remain in a state, equally uncultivated and unprofitable !—Unprofitable, because they yield but forage for a few lean sheep, a solitary ass, or precarious flock of poultry,—and uncultivated, because there are so many ignorant prejudices to remove. To us, the idea of a person's being *robbed* of a self-created property, which he enjoys by *leave*, or *custom*, and not by purchase, or hereditary claim, appears too ridiculous to operate in the mind of any person of common sense: We must, therefore, say of the *common-croakers*, as Mr. Glover said of the Scots in the House of Commons, " That they have every sense—but COMMON SENSE." Our computation of common-grounds will not appear exaggerated, when it is considered, that the average to each parish-town in the county is but 138 acres, whilst we can point out a great many towns that have from 500 to 1000 acres, and some more.—One hundred thousand acres is equal to 156 square miles.

To this great *waste* of land, we may add 10,000 miles of ROADS in Norfolk, one-half of which are quite unnecessary ; and these, at an average width of 24 feet, amount to 29,091 acres, or $39\frac{1}{3}$ square miles : But even an improvement in this way occasions much dissatisfaction ; and

we

we have known instances, where roads have been put by, by authority, and others made, much shorter and more convenient, yet the measure was reprobated! To speak of improvements, is to raise a hue and cry amongst those who dread an invasion of common-sense—more than of the French.

We might produce abundance of facts (and facts are stubborn arguments) to support our opinion on the subject of enclosing waste-lands, but the advantages of *improvement* are so obvious, that further proof seems unnecessary.

In our observations, we hope, the reader will acquit us of any partiality or improper motive,—*general utility* being our ultimate wish; for, we consider it to be the peculiar privilege, and duty, of every writer to promote enquiry with judgment, and exercise opinion with discretion.

The county, says Camden, is large, and almost all champaign, except in some places where there arise gentle hills. 'Tis very rich, well stored with flocks of sheep, and abounds with conies. The soil is different according to the several quarters; in some places fat, luscious, and full of moisture, as in Marshland and Flegg; in others, especially to the West, it is poor, lean, and sandy; and in others clayey, and chalky. The soil is more various than perhaps that of any other county, and comprehends all the sorts that are to be found in the island; arable, pasture, meadow, wood-lands, light sandy ground, deep clays, heaths, and fens.

The Norfolk system of husbandry, or present state of agriculture, has been scientifically and experimentally treated of by Mr. Arthur Young, in his "Farmer's Tour through the Eastern Counties," and by others, with a

knowledge of the subject so much superior to ours, that we decline entering further into the arcanum; well knowing, that where we might be disposed to condemn a practice, which want of skill had rooted, and long custom nutried into a *prejudice*, all endeavours to eradicate would prove ineffectual.

The farmers of Norfolk have long, and very justly, been esteemed the best in the kingdom—for management; but we do not think for experiment: and *experiment* is the soul of improvement! The lateness of their harvest is attempted to be accounted for by an author, who says, “Here the air is somewhat sharp, whereby the spring and harvest are the more backward,” notwithstanding which, we have the concurring opinions of many impartial judges, who say, that the corn (especially wheat) is not cut down so early as it *ought* to be, nor got in with that alacrity it *might* be. The method of planting and rearing quicks in Norfolk and Suffolk is condemned by most of the northern counties; and what proves it beyond a possibility of doubt, is the very indifferent hedge-fences to be seen in most parts of Norfolk and Suffolk.*

Few farmers there are who consider the influence of climate on vegetable bodies. They sow, they reap, because *custom* hath established periods; but they reason not philosophically on the nature and effect of air, and the seasons.

Vegetation, in every part of the earth, bears a certain general proportion to the Sun’s influence on the elementary system.

* In Norfolk the bank is raised from two deep ditches, the top thin, and the quicks set on the *SLOPE*. In the northern counties the bank is much lower and broader, and the quicks set on the *TOP*, and fenced by battens on each side. In Norfolk they cut and *scour*, but they cut and *splash* the hedges in the northern and mid-land counties.

system. That air is necessary to vegetation is certain, but the ingredient in it of the best quality is not so well understood. Water through the atmosphere is preferable to pump or river water, and all plants exposed, absorb a nutriment with the atmospherical air in their phlogisticated state.

We shall here take the liberty of adding some observations on the influence of climate on animal bodies.

Dr. Wilson observes, on the theory of the operation of putrid effluvia from marshes, " that animal bodies have a strong natural tendency to putrefaction, and would actually run into it, unless prevented by the discharge of their most putrescent parts." Dr. Priestly on air, shews " that air inhaled by inspiration receives a charge of phlogiston from the blood, which is discharged by expiration." Dr. Alexander endeavours to prove, " that effluvia from marshes act as antiseptics and correctors of putrefaction," but Dr. Wilson denies this position. " All marshy grounds (says he) and stagnated waters, emit a smell more or less disagreeable from the vegetable substances which ferment and rot in them; this mixture of humidity, fixed air, and putrid vapour, contains a certain degree of phlogiston in this climate." " Those vapours impregnate the surrounding atmosphere, and disable it from carrying off from the lungs the putrid vapour and phlogiston in such abundance as may be necessary to prevent an accumulation in the body; in consequence of which, putrid diseases come on, not from the matter taken into the body, but from that retained which ought to be expelled, and would actually be so in a purer air."

" The strong antiseptic qualities of the air discharged by the vegetable fermentations, seem fully to counteract
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the septic tendency of the putrid effluvium from marshes, when applied to dead animal substance, even should there be small portions of putrid animal matter, in swampy or marshy grounds; yet these substances will exceedingly contribute to the impregnation of the air, and consequently to its bad effects on living animal bodies, by respiration.—Fixed air is unfit for the purposes of respiration, though an antiseptic of very considerable efficacy.

The soil of Norfolk is in general a very light sandy loam, which in years that are more inclined to wet than dryness, throws out immense crops, the very wettest that can come is not too much for their lands: every one, we believe, will allow that the chances of the seasons, in this moist climate, are infinitely more in their favor, than if their soil was of the heavy *cult*.

Marling hath wrought great improvements; for, under the whole country run veins of a very rich soapy kind. Farms are large, and the rents low in some places; but we must confess, that the *times* are much against farmers. Monopoly of farms, and encrease of rent, are not the only evil; prodigality and temerity hath taken possession of the honest, plain, industrious tenant;—the consequences are fatal to many.

Societies for the encouragement of agriculture have been established in many parts of the kingdom, particularly at Bath, in Yorkshire, and in Norfolk; and the society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, instituted at London in 1753, have liberally, and very beneficially, bestowed premiums for *planting and husbandry*.

*Norfolk Society for the Encouragement of
Agriculture.*

“ As it is found that the society established in London for the encouragement of agriculture cannot adapt itself to the several circumstances of different counties, and as few farmers can receive any advantage from it, a society is formed, the whole attention of which will be directed to the county of Norfolk.

“ Great benefits have been experienced from societies of this kind, instituted in other parts of England; in which by raising a spirit of improvement, agriculture has received great advantages. Equal advantages, it is presumed, may be received in this county. Notwithstanding the progress made here in the turnip husbandry, and in the excellent management of light arable lands, there are many other branches of husbandry to which we have not paid equal attention: But supposing the Norfolk husbandry to be equally perfect in all its parts, who will be so hardy as to assert that we are now arrived at the *ne plus ultra* of improvement. The objects of this society are, to raise by premiums a spirit of emulation and improvement in such parts of husbandry as seem most to require it; to endeavour to increase the national produce of corn, by bringing into cultivation in the least expensive and most effectual manner such lands as are at present barren; particularly by draining, and the introduction of various sorts of vegetable food for cattle, and by distributing rewards to those who shall raise the largest and best crops of the several species of grain; to promote the knowledge of agriculture, by encouraging and directing regular experiments on those subjects

jects which are of most importance in it; to extend this knowledge by publishing the result of these experiments in the county papers. And by a correspondence with the provincial societies established for this or the like purposes in other parts of the kingdom, to acquire and diffuse the best and most certain method of proceeding in every branch of husbandry. The degree in which these objects can be obtained, must depend upon the degree of encouragement which the undertaking shall receive from the public; It is therefore requested that all such gentlemen, farmers, and others, as are disposed to support it, will signify their intention with such sums as each person may respectively choose to subscribe to the Treasurer, or to Messrs. Alday and Kerrison, Bankers, in Norwich.

Rules and Orders of the Society.

- I. That there be one President, twelve Vice-Presidents, one Treasurer, and Secretary;—To be chosen at the annual meeting in the assize-week, at Norwich.
- II. That there be an annual meeting on the Saturday in every assize-week, in Norwich, and also that there be a quarterly meeting on the Saturday in each county-festions week, at twelve o'clock precisely.
- III. An extraordinary general meeting may be called at any time, notice being given by advertising two succeeding weeks in the Norwich Papers, at the request, and under the signature of ten subscribers.
- IV. That a committee of the whole society shall meet at the Coffee-house in Norwich, on the Saturday preceding each general meeting, at four o'clock in the afternoon, in

in order to prepare busine's, and that any three members be a committee.

V. That the committee may adjourn if necessary.

VI. None to be admitted at meetings but members of the society without leave of the majority of the members present.

VII. At all meetings business shall begin with reading the minutes of the preceding meeting, but no part of such minutes shall be discussed till the whole has been read through. The minutes shall then be read a second time, and no new matter shall be proposed till the said minutes have been discussed article by article, and all parts of the minutes which shall not be objected to at the second reading shall stand confirmed, and be signed by the then presiding member.

VIII. That any person paying the sum of ten guineas to the society shall be a member for life.

IX. The annual subscriptions to commence from the 1st day of January, 1774, and new subscriptions in succeeding years to commence from the 1st of January preceding.

X. No person to be a member, or to have a right to vote, if his subscription is more than three months in arrear.

XI. All members shall take their places when the society proceeds to business; and when any member speaks he shall address himself to the chair.

XII. No question shall be put on any motion unless the motion be seconded.

XIII. No motion that has been rejected shall be made again in less than twelve months from the time of its being rejected.

XIV. No premium shall be offered till it has been approved by a general meeting.

XV. No premium or bounty shall be given to any candidate unless recommended to the general meeting by a committee.

XVI. When two or more members offer to speak together, the presiding member shall determine who shall speak first.

XVII. At all meetings of the society no member shall speak more than twice upon the same question, unless called upon to explain himself by the presiding member.

XVIII. When any matter is in debate, if a member shall speak to new business, the presiding member shall call him to order.

XIX. The member who speaks to order shall be first heard.

XX. All claims of premiums, petitions, and memorials, to be lodged with the Secretary, at least 14 days before the meeting at which they are to be taken into consideration, that the Secretary may have time to prepare the business.

XXI. The society to reserve to themselves a power to give in all cases such part only of any premium as the performance shall be judged to deserve; or in case of want of merit, to with-hold the premium entirely.

XXII. A candidate for a premium, or a person applying for a bounty, being detected in any attempt to impose upon the society, shall forfeit such premium or bounty, and shall be incapable of obtaining any for the future.

N. B. The three last rules to be always inserted in the publication of the premiums of the year.

XXIII. No member of the society who is a candidate for, or interested in a premium, or bounty, shall be present while the subject is under consideration; unless called upon to answer questions, after which to withdraw.

XXIV. The committee may desire the assistance of such gentlemen, farmers, and others, though not members, as shall be best able to judge of, and discover the truth and value of any thing for which a premium or bounty is to be given.

XXV. No instrument, printed book, or other thing belonging to the society, shall be lent without an order of the society or committee.

XXVI. The committees are to consider such subjects as are most proper to be encouraged by premiums; and to digest such other matter as may be thought proper, to be recommended to the consideration of the general meetings.

XXVII. Not less than twenty members may make or alter laws, nor less than seven proceed to business at the general meetings; the President, or one of the Vice Presidents to be present, and the presiding member shall take the chair immediately after seven members shall attend.

Premiums offered by the society are arranged under five heads, viz.—Class I. *Improvement of land.*—Class II. *In-*

Increase of produce.—Class III. Improvement and increase of the breed of cattle and sheep.—Class IV. Experiments.—Class V. Encouragement of industry.

The following resolutions of the Society are ordered to be published with the premiums.

Resolved, That all members of the society be requested to communicate to the society, in writing, their observations upon any defect or wrong management in the agriculture of their respective neighbourhoods, and their opinions concerning the best means of remedying such defect.

That all members of the society be requested to communicate to the society, in writing, those experiments which they have already made, or may at any time hereafter make in any branch of husbandry, which promise success, and seem likely to be productive of advantage to the public.

That every person who has been a subscribing member of this society, shall be deemed to continue as such (according to his last subscription) unless he shall give notice in writing to the Secretary of declining, or reducing his subscription, on or before the 1st day of January in the succeeding year.

That all members of the society be requested to communicate to the society in writing, their opinions relative to all or any of the premiums, in order (if they are in any particular exceptionable) that they may be better adapted to the general circumstances of the county.

Sir HARBORD HARBORD, Bart. President.
Rev. EDWARD HOWMAN, Secretary.

Of the Turnpike and Statute Roads.

Although this county claims the credit of having made the first turnpike road in the kingdom, yet most other counties have since done more in that way. The following are the only turnpike-roads extant in Norfolk, 1781:

From Norwich to Thetford	-	29 miles
Ditto to Swaffham	-	28
And to Mattishall	-	4
West Bilney to Lynn-Regis	9	
Norwich to Yarmouth	-	22
St. Olave's-bridge to Beccles	8	
Lynn-Regis to Gayton	-	7
Ditto to Castle-Rising	-	5
And to Hillington	-	4
And to Grimston	-	3
Ditto to Methwold	-	19
And to Little Ouse Bridge	14	
Ditto to Wisbech	-	17
Fincham to near Wisbech	17	
Norwich to Scole Inn	-	20
And to New Buckenham	12	
*Ditto to Watton	-	21

Total 239 miles.

Besides the turnpike-roads, there are some great leading roads, which have mile-stones, and in other respects not less commodious for travelling. But this, we must observe, is only where the area is thirty or forty feet, the road properly drained, and not shadowed by close hedges or high trees.

The

The principal country, or cross-roads, or, as they are called, highways, are kept in repair by statute work, and Surveyors are appointed in each parish to see the labor performed; but inattention and want of skill may be traced on many of the public lanes; and being for the most part narrow, and deprived of the benefit of air and drainage, the labor is often lost. Add to this, the multiplicity of roads among which the labor must be distributed, and the heavy carriages made use of in Norfolk. However, we find, that the roads made or repaired by private gentlemen, are equal to any to be met with in other counties.

Rivers, Broads, &c.

The principal rivers in the county are, the ~~Wenforn~~, Yare, Bure, Ant, Thurne, Waveney, Great Ouse, ~~Nene~~, Little Ouse (or Brandon) Thet, Stoke (or Wissey) ~~Nar~~, Wilbech, Thur (or Stiffkey) Creak, Cley, Mundesley, Gresham, Taiis, Loddon, Broome, Gressenhall, Eyne, Tud, besides several nameless rivulets. The river ~~Wensom~~, Wentfar, or Bariden, hath its source near Whifsonset, in Launditch hundred; bending round by Rainham, receives a branch from Rudham, and another from Sculthorpe; and passing by Fakenham and Elmham, is joined at Worthing by an united stream,—the one from Bittering and Beetley, the other from Wendling and Gressenhall: Above this, a small brook runs into the Wensom from Foulsham. Below Lenwade-Bridge it receives the Eyne from Heydon and Reepham, and opposite to Helleston, the Tud from Mattishall and Cossey. Running through the city of Norwich, it is joined by the Yare and Taiis at Trowse. The YARE rises in Hingham, and running

ning by Kimberley, Marlingford*, Bawburgh, and Eaton, meets the *Taiss* at Lakenham. The *TAIS* hath three branches; one comes from New Buckenham, a second from Pulham, and the third from Hempnall, all of which unite at Tasburgh, to which a smaller brook is added from Taconestone, and another from Wrenningham. These come down by Shottisham, and meet the *Yare* at Lakenham, below which (at Trowse) they form a junction with the *Wensom*, and then take the name of *YARE*.

The *YARE*†, which is navigable from Norwich, hath its course by Postwick, Surlingham, Bockenham, and Reedham, where it receives a stream from Mundham and Loddon. From thence it meanders through the marshes to Brayden ‡, at the upper end of which it meets with the *Waveney*, and both being joined by the *Bure*, or *North River*, at Yarmouth, influx with the British ocean, two miles south of the town. The corporation of Norwich conservate the river down to Hardley-Cross, from whence to its mouth the corporation of Great Yarmouth have the jurisdiction; also up the *Bure* and *Waveney* to the bridges at Acle and St. Olave's.

The river *BURE* arises near Hindolveston, and running by Saxthorpe and Blickling, becomes navigable at Aylsham; from whence it proceeds to Oxnead and Lammas, where it is joined by a considerable branch from Roughton, Suffield, &c. The *Bure* then goes by Coltishall, and receives a rivulet from Horsford above Wroxham, passes through

Wroxham-

* A branch from Wymondham joins at Kimberley, and one from Garveston at Barford.---This last is properly the *YARE*.

† *Garienis*, *Cuerne*, *Gerne*, or *Jere*.

‡ *Braiden*, or *Brayden*, called in a record, *Henry VI. 6, AQUA DE BRETHING*, and anciently *BARADAN*. It is marked *FL. BRAYDYN* in a map on vellum, supposed to be drawn in the reign of *Edward III.*

Wroxham-Bridge to St. Bennet's Abbey, where the **ANT** (which springs from Antingham and Thorpe-Market, and bending round North Walsham, to Honing, Wayford-Bridge, and Ludham) meets it. From St. Bennet's the **Bure** glides on to Thurne, where it is joined by a river called the **THURNE**, having its source in Happisburgh, and channel by Hickling-Priory, and Heigham-Potter Bridge, above which a navigable stream from Hickling-Broad, and one from Winterton, unite: Thus, the **Ant** and **Thurne** being consolidated with the **Bure**, they pass through Acle-bridge, and receiving some water from Hemesby and Filby, worm through the marshes, and meet the **YARE** at Yarmouth.

The **WAVENY** filters from a piece of meadow-ground at Lopham, (out of which also the *Lesser Ouse* takes its course westward) and passing though the bridge at Scole, runs by Billingford and Harleston, below which it is aided by a brook from Pulham. It makes a bend round Bungay in form of a horse-shoe, and at Ellingham receives a stream from Hedenham and Broome; then washing the north side of Beccles, it communicates, opposite Burgh St. Peter, with the ebb of Mutford-broad, and continuing its navigable course through the marshes by St. Olave's, is joined, opposite Burgh-Castle, by the **Yare**, both of which, with the **Bure**, empty their contents into the sea at Yarmouth haven. The Waveney is navigable from Bungay-bridge, through the bridges at Beccles, and St. Olave's, to Yarmouth.

The **OUSE Parva**, or **BRANDON** river, hath its rise from the same meadow at Lopham, that the *Waveney* proceeds a contrary way; and running by Gaistorpe and Rushford, meets a river from Ixworth, in Suffolk. Above Thetford it receives the **THET**, one branch of which rises at Old Buckenham,

Buckenham, and being joined at Snetterton by a rill from Breckles and Larlingford, meets another branch from Quidenham-meer at East Harling; and thus the **THE T** . being formed, passes between Brettenham and Shadwell-Lodge to Thetford, where the **OUSE** hath a bridge, and becomes navigable. From thence it meanders through the “ sandy desarts” to Brandon-bridge, and stealing on “ in solemn tragic pace” through the level of fens, is “ wedded” to the **GREATER OUSE** at Priest-bridge, four miles below Littleport, in Cambridgeshire.

From Priest-bridge the **OUSE** hath its course by Southerry-ferry to Hilgay-creek, where the **WISSEY**, or **STOKE** river, meets in contact. The **WISSEY** rises from Bradenham, and from Hingham, the latter branch running by Watton, meets the former at Crefingham, whence leading past Langford by a sweep to Oxburgh, is there joined by a stream from Beecham-well. From thence the **WISSEY** is navigable through Stoke and Hilgay bridges to the **OUSE** at Hilgay-creek. About one mile and a half below, the **OUSE** passes through Denver-sluice, where it is immediately joined by the *Bedford* rivers from Erith, and the *Nene* from Upwell and Outwell.

Here, indeed, the **OUSE** becomes formidable, by receiving the waters and produce of several counties; for, the **GREATER OUSE** (formerly called *Usa*, or *Isa*) springs from Brackley, in Northamptonshire, and passing through Buckingham, Bedford, Huntingdon, and Cambridge-shire, admits the *Grant*, or *Cambridge*, and *Mildenhall* rivers, at Ely. The *NENE* rises in Northamptonshire, dividing that county from Huntingdon, and running through a part of Cambridge-shire and Norfolk, influxes with the **OUSE** as above. The tide formerly flowed a considerable way up

these rivers, but is now checked by sluices at Denver, below which the **Ouse** passes through Downham, Stow, Magdalen, and German bridges, and being joined by the **Nar**, and a multitude of cuts, drains, dikes, lodes, &c. in its way hither, empties its vast contents into the bay, called by Ptolemy **METARIS AESTUARIUM**, or the **WASH***, two miles below the port of Lynn-Regis. The **Ouse**, according to Badeslade, runs a course of 160 miles †.

The **NAR** hath its source in Mileham, and passing by Litcham and Castle Acre, becomes navigable at Westacre, from whence it takes its course by Pentney and Setchybridge to Lynn-Regis, where it is swallowed up by the **Ouse**.

The **WISBECH** river is a cut from the **Nene**, at Peterborough, and running through Morton's-leam and Wisbech-bridge, empties itself into the Cross-keys wash, and bay of **Metaris Aestuarium**. Till the thirteenth century the **Greater Ouse** and **Cam** had their out-fall by Littleport, Welney, Well, and Wisbech; but it was then judged right to divert its natural course into the Lynn channel. [For the particulars of this revolution, and its consequences, we refer the reader to the history of the **BEDFORD LEVEL**, given in *Freebridge-Lynn and Marshland*, vol. 5, page 17.]

Of

* Called by Ptolemy **Aestuarium Metaris**, possibly instead of **MALTRATH**, a name by which the Britons called **Aestuaries** in other places, and which imports no more than "an uncertain **aestuary**," as this is.

† The **Ouse**, or **Ifis**, as Sir Henry Spelman says is its proper name, "is remarkable for its extraordinary over-flowings at the two Exquinoxes, and especially at the full moon of the autumnal one, when a vast heap of waters from the sea comes in upon it with such fury, that the inhabitants call it **EAGER**; for it over-whelms every thing in its way, and the very water-fowls shun it."

Of the other rivers of any note that have their origin in this county, one rises above Aishwicken, and runs into the **Ouse** at Lynn:—Another proceeds from Congham, by Castle-Rising, into Lynn channel, at Wolferton:—A third springs from Bircham, and by Fring, goes into the same channel, at Heacham. The next rises above South Creak, and forms a good haven below Burnham. The **THUR, or STIFKEY** river, comes out of Thursford, and running by Snoring, Barsham, Walsingham, and Warham, influxes with the sea below Stifkey. The **CLEY** river rises at Beckham, having its course by Baconsthorpe, thro' a deep vale by Holt and Cley, into the sea at Blakeney, where it forms what is called *Cley harbour*. A small rivulet springs from South-Repps, passing by Gimmingham to the ocean at Mundesley. It is rather remarkable, that from Mundesley to Yare-mouth, a distance of twenty-six miles along the coast, not the smallest rill finds its way into the ocean.

Besides the rivers we have described, there are some smaller tributary streams which deserve not particular mention.

The principal lakes (called **BROADS, or MERES,**) in this county, are,—The *Brayden*, or Broad-end, above Yarmouth, through which the navigable rivers Yare and Waveney, have their channel: it is three miles in length, and in most parts half a mile wide. *Hickling-broad* is a beautiful sheet of water, about one mile over; near to it are several smaller lakes of irregular form; and about two miles East is *Horsey-mere*, or broad, covering forty acres. Near to *Stalham* is a broad one mile long, but scarcely a furlong wide; and below it is *Barton-broad*, of the same length, though much wider towards the middle. *Filby-broad*

broad extends a mile and a half, but is so shallow, narrow, and ill-shapen, that nothing more need be said of it. By the river Bure are several broads, as *Wroxham, Hoveton, Woodbastwick, Ranworth, and Scuth Walsham*, all of which are said to cover 500 acres. *Quidenham, Diss, and Hingham*, have each a mere, but they are small with respect to those above mentioned.

It was some years ago proposed to render the river Wensum navigable from Norwich up to Fakenham, but the difficulty and expence of the work it was found would far exceed the partial benefit to the country. A navigable cut from Norwich, by Hingham and Watton, to Oxburgh, was also proposed, which would have opened a communication with the Ouse, &c. but this, like the other, appeared but in *embryo*; and in the present state of public affairs, it is not probable that any improvement of this kind will be put in execution.

Fairs in the County of Norfolk, specifying the Days on which they are held, 1781.

- Aldeburgh, June 21
- Attleburgh, April 11, May 24, August 15
- Aylsham, March 23, September 25
- Banham, January 22
- Bromhall, May 28, November 30
- Broomhill, July 7
- Burnham, March 15, August 1
- Castle Acre, April 18, July 25
- Cawston, January 10, April 14, August 28
- Cley, July 13
- Coltishall, June 4

Cressingham

Cressingham *Magna*, August 12
 Cromer, June 4
 Dereham, East, February 3, September 28
 Diss, October 28
 Downham, April 27, November 2
 Elmham, April 5
 Harling, East, May 4, October 24
 St. Faith's, the week after Old Mich. Oct. 17
 Feltwell, November 20
 Fincham, March 3
 Fornaset, September 11
 Foulsham, May 1
 Frettenham, April 13
 Fring, May 10, November 30
 Gaywood, June 11, October 6
 Giffing, July 25
 Gressenhall, December 6
 Harleston, July 5, September 9
 Harpley, July 24
 Heacham, August 3
 Hempnall, June 4, November 22
 Hempton, June 5, November 22
 Hingham, March 6, May 26, October 2
 Hockham, April 5
 Hockwold, July 25
 Holt, April 25, November 25
 Horning, August 6
 Ingaham, July 11
 Kenninghall, July 7
 Kip-Ash, August 24
 Loddon, April 16, November 27
 Litcham, November 1
 Lynn-Regis, February 2
 Magdalen, near Norwich, August 2

Maffingham,

Massingham, April 10, November 8
 Mattishall, June 6
 Methwold, April 25
 New Buckenham, May 29, October 22
 North Walsham, May 24
 Northwold, November 30
 Norwich, April 12, June 2 and 9
 Oxburgh, March 25
 Pulham St. Mary Magdalen, May 21
 Reepham, June 29
 Rudham, May 17, October 2
 Scole, April 17
 Scottow, April 17
 Shouldham, September 19, October 10
 South-Repps, July 25
 Sprowston, August 2
 Stoke-Ferry, December 6
 Stow-bridge, May 29
 Swaffham, May 12, July 21, November 3
 Thetford, May 14, August 2, September 25
 Walsingham, June 4
 Watton, June 18, September 29, October 28
 Weasenham, January 25
 Worsted, May 3
 Wymondham, February 2, May 6, September 7
 Yarmouth, April 19, 20.

Origin and Use of Seals.

The Saxons used no seals, only signed the mark of a cross to their instruments, to which the scribe affixed their names, by which they had a double meaning; first, to denote their being Christians, and then as such to confirm

it

it by the symbol of their faith: The first sealed charter we meet with, is that of Edward the Confessor, to Westminister-Abbey, which use he brought with him from Normandy, where he was brought up, and for that reason it was approved of by the Norman Conqueror, though sealing grew into common use by degrees, the King at first only using it, then some of the Nobility, after that the Nobles in general, who engraved on their seals their own effigies, covered with their coat armour; after this the Gentlemen followed, and used the arms of their family for difference sake; but about the time of Edward III. seals became of general use, and they that had no coat armour, sealed with their own device, as flowers, birds, beasts, or whatever they chiefly delighted in, as a dog, a hare, &c. and nothing was more common than an invention, or *rebus*, for their names, as a swan and a tun, for Swanton, a hare, for Hare, &c. and because very few of the commonalty could write, (all learning at that time being among the religious only) the person's name was usually circumscribed on his seal, so that at once they set both their name and seal, which was so sacred a thing in those days, that one man never used another's seal, without its being particularly taken notice of in the instrument sealed, and for this reason, every one carried their seal about them, either on their rings, or on a roundell, fastened sometimes to their purse, sometimes to their girdle; nay, oftentimes where a man's seal was not much known, he procured some one in public office to affix theirs, for the greater confirmation. Thus Hugh de Schalers, or Scales, a younger son of Lord Scales's family, parson of Harlton, in Cambridgeshire, upon his agreeing to pay the prior of Bernewell 30s. for the two-third parts of the tythe corn, due to the said prior, out of several lands in his parish, because his seal was known to few, he procured the Archdeacon's official, to put

put his seal of office, for more ample confirmation ; and when this was not done, nothing was more common than for a Public-notary to affix his mark, which being registered, at their admission into their office, was of as public a nature as any seal could be, and of as great sanction to any instrument, those officers being always sworn to the true execution of their office, and to affix no other mark than that they had registered, to any instrument, so their testimony could be as well known by their mark, as by their name ; for which reason they were called Public-notaries, *nota*, in Latin, signifying a mark, and *public*, because their mark was publicly registered, and their office was to be public to all that had any occasion for them to strengthen their evidence ; there are few of these officers among us now, and such as we have, have so far varied from the original of their name, that they use no mark at all, only add N. P. for Notary-public at the end of their names*. Thus also the use of seals is now laid aside, we mean the *true use* of them, as the distinguishing mark of one family from another, and likewise of one branch from another ; and was it enjoined by public *authority*, that every one in office should, upon his admission, choose, and appropriate to himself a particular seal, and register a copy of it publicly, and should never use any other but that alone, under a severe penalty, in a short time we should see the good

* The use of these marks were found so beneficial, that at that time all merchants of any note had their peculiar marks, with which they marked all their ware, and bare in shields impaled with, or instead of arms, witness the abundance of merchant marks to be found on the houses, windows, and grave-stones, in all cities and great towns, as Norwich, Lynn, &c. by which the memory of their owners is still preserved, it being very obvious to all that search into the records of those places, to find who used such a mark, and then, if we see it on a house, we may conclude it to have been that man's dwelling ; if on a disrobed grave-stone, that it was his grave ; if on a church window, or any other public building, that he was a benefactor thereto, and nothing is of greater use than ancient deeds to make out their marks by, for they always sealed with them.

good effects of it; for a great number of those vagabonds that infest our country, under pretence of certificates, signed by proper Magistrates, (whose hands are oftener counterfeit than real) would be detected; for though it is easy for an ill-designing person to forge a hand writing, 'tis directly the contrary as to a seal; and though it is in the power of all to know magistrates names, 'tis but very few of such sort of people that could know their seals; so that it would in a great measure (if not altogether) put a stop to that vile practice, and it would be easy for every Magistrate to know the seals of all others, if they were entered properly, engraved, and published; and it might be of service if all the office seals in England (or in those foreign parts that any way concern the Realm) were engraved and published, for then it would be in every one's power to know whether the seals of office affixed to all passes, &c. were genuine, or not; for it is well known that numbers travel this nation under pretence of passes from our Consuls and agents abroad, and sometimes even deceive careful Magistrates with the pretended hands and seals of such, it being sometimes impossible for them to know the truth, which by this means would evidently appear. And thus much, and a great deal more, may be said to encourage the true and original use of that wise Conqueror's practice, who can scarce be said to have put any thing into use, but what he found was of advantage to his Government.—*Blomefield.*

The great seal of England was first used in 1050, and Lambard, in his perambulation of Kent, justly observes, that seals were not in common use *anno Domini*. 1294, and therefore, to make a conveyance in the most solemn and public manner that could be, the deed was read to the parish after service, in the church-yard, that all might

know it, and be witnesses, if occasion required. We have seen the copy of a grant made by Malcolm III. King of Scotland, about the year 1080, wherein he says, “*and for the mair suith, I byte the white Wax with my Tooth, before thir witnessses three,*” &c.

Of Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Danish Antiquities.

In Norfolk, the remains are so fully described in the topography of the hundred they respectively belong to, that little more need be said here than just to mention names.

Thetford was the *Sitomagus* of the Romans,—Yarmouth, *Garianonum*,—Castor, *Venta-Icenorum*,—Taburgh, *Ad Taum*,—Brancaster, *Brannodunum*,—and Ickborough, *Icianii*.

At Brampton, and many other places in the county, Roman coins have been discovered. The Roman camps at Castor, Taburgh, and Brancaster, are easily traced, but the station at Burgh, near the Brayden, is the most entire of any in *Iceni*. The North of England and South of Scotland abounds in those ocular evidences of antiquity which carry with them conviction: Roman stations, roads, and exploratory camps are frequent; and vestiges of circumvallations raised by the Scots and Picts, Danes and Britons, are every way to be met with. Indeed, many of the latter are credulously believed *Roman* by Gordon, Horley, and other itinerant delineants, “whose imagination (says an author) heated by a superior warmth of erudition, fondly fostered every appearance that bore a resemblance to antiquity, and claimed an indisputable credit from their learned disquisitions.” That all Roman fortifications

stations were quadrilateral is beyond dispute: It is equally ascertained that those of the Anglo-Saxons, Danes, and British, were circular;—then, how the latter could be mistaken for *Roman* is to us more than wonderful!

Thetford, Yarmouth, Elmham, Norwich, and Deopham, were towns well known to the Saxons. At a place, called *Blood-gate*, in South Creak, are vestiges of a Saxon fortification, where a severe battle was fought between the Anglo-Saxons and Danes. A small circular fort is yet visible at *Narburgh*; thrown up, most likely, when the Danes landed on the coast of Norfolk, *anno Dni. 1003*. At *Burnham-Depdale* are several Saxon funeral monuments; and near *Weeting* is a bank and ditch, called the *Foss*;—near it is *Grime's Graves*; and not far from thence the *Walsingham Way* is pretty perfect.

The principal military ways of the Romans in this island are those now called *Watling-street*, *Ickenield-street*, *Stone-street*, and the *Fosse-way*, which are visible in many parts of South Britain, on which most of the Roman cities and stations stood, and consequently most of the remains of Roman antiquity found in Britain have been discovered. These four principal ways crossed each other at *Tilbury-fort*, and there passing the river *Thames*, extended in their several directions to the extremities of the Roman possessions in England and Wales. Besides the principal ways, there are many remains of vicinal ways, or such as were called by the Romans, *Chemini minares*: Some of these are said to pass into Norfolk, but of this we are doubtful; notwithstanding it is generally allowed that the Romans made roads of communication to all their stations*.

Q. 2

road,

* Military ways, *VIA MILITARES*, are the large Roman roads for the more convenient marching of troops and conveyance of carriages.

Agrippa

road, called the *Peddar's-way*, running from Thetford, by Ickborough, Swaffham, Castle Acre, Harpley-dam, Fring, and Ringstead, to the sea at Holme, has most the appearance of *Roman* of any we have met with in the county; for, what is called Walsingham, or the *Milky-way*, is only a road of pilgrimage to our Lady of Walsingham. The road leading by Long Stratton to Tasburgh might possibly be *Roman*, but we see nothing like *Roman* roads to Castor, Elmham, nor Brancaster;—the *Venta-Icenorum*, and *Brannodunum* of the Romans.

In this, as in other counties, are to be met with in many parts, artificial heaps of earth and stone, commonly called *barrows*, from the Saxon word *byrigh*, and from which the English word *bury* is also derived. These were called by the Romans *tumulug*: in Scotland they are called *cairns*, and in Ireland *curroughs*; in Wales they are termed *tom-mens*, or *hillocks*. Barrows are found in most countries; but in the British dominions they are very numerous, occasioned by the practice of the Druids, who burned and then buried their dead; though afterwards barrows were made use of for other purposes than protecting the remains of the dead:—Sometimes as places of worship, for holding judicial courts, festival solemnities, and election of inferior magistrates. Dr. Stukely is clearly of the same opinion with us, “ that the ancient Britons had the custom of burning the bodies of their dead, before they had ever heard of the name of Rome.”

In these barrows, or burial-places, are found human bones intermixed with wood-ashes, and enclosed by a parcel of stones set in some order; or, by urns of brick-clay.

Along

Agrippa procured these roads to be made through the empire in the time of Augustus.

Along with these are frequently found instruments of war, pledge, or sacrifice. When these barrows were not very large, and the burying places of private persons only, they were situated near public roads, to put travellers in mind of the common destiny ! If they were the sepulchres of common soldiers, they were thrown up generally on the field of battle where the soldiers fell, and are found in strait lines, stretching along the plains, which have been the scenes of great actions, as regularly as the front of an army. The size of these sepulchral monuments is various, but generally large, in proportion to the quality of the deceased, or the vanity, affection, and power of the survivors !

In this manner do we find a great many *barrows* in Norfolk, near Anmer, Sedgeford, Rudham, Stifkey, Creak, Long Stratton, Wretham, Weeting, &c. some of which have been opened, and discovered relics, which the reader will find topographically described in the said parts of this history.

Bishop Gibson, amongst his additions to Caimden's Norfolk, says, " Towards the sea-side are cast up all along little hills, which are doubtless the burying places of the Danes and Saxons, upon their engagements in those parts. *Sepulchrum*, says Tacitus, concerning the Germans, *cespes frigit*. Those two used to bury the whole body, and afterwards raise a hill upon it; The Romans, as appears in Virgil by the burial of Mezentius, made their heap of turf, but only buried the ashes; so that whether they also might not have some share here (especially *Brannodunum*, being so near) cannot be discovered but by digging. However, our learned Knight* from those circumstances has

raised

* Sir Henry Spelman.

tailed these three observations: first, that the persons buried hereabouts must have been Heathens, because the Christians followed the Jewish way of burying in low places *; for though our word *bury* (comes from the Saxon *byrigan*, and that from *beorg*, a hill) denotes a rising ground, as well as the Latin *tumulare*, yet this is to be reckoned amongst those many words which Christians have borrowed from the Heathens, and applied to their own rites and constitutions. Secondly, it is remarkable, that those parts which are now very fruitful in corn, were then uncultivated †, because the superstition of the Heathens would not allow them to bury in fields. Thirdly, that this must have been a scene of war between the Danes and Saxons; for in the fields near Creak there is a large Saxon fortification, and the way that goes from it is to this day called *Blood-gate*, as a mark of the slaughter.”

*The Monasteries and Religious-Houses in
Norwich, and the County of Norfolk, at
the Time of the general Dissolution by
Henry VIII. anno Dni. 1535, are as
follow:*

Norwich Convent, or Cathedrāl	Aldby Priory
St. Mary in Norwich	Attleburgh Chantry
St. Francis, ditto	Beeston Priory
St. Dominic, ditto	Bacton
St. Augustine, ditto	Binhām
St. Giles, ditto	Blackborough in Middleton
St. Paul, ditto	Blakeney, or Snitterley
	Buckenham
	Broomhill

* *In fossie*

† *Cic de Leg. sub fin.*

Broonhill near Brandon	Pentney
Broomholme in Baconst	Peterstone near Holkham
Burnham-Westgate	De Prato, or North Creak
Bedlam Black Canons	Abbey
Carew, Carrowe, or Carhow	Raveningham
Carbrooke	Rushworth
Castle Acre	Shouldham
Castor College	Thetford House of Friars
Coxford in Rudham	Monastery of Augustine
Crabe-house in Wiggenhall	Friars in ditto
Dereham, East	St. Sepulchre, ditto
Dereham, West	Priory of St. Mary and St.
Flitcham	John, ditto
Heveringland Mount-Joy	St. Gregory, ditto
Hempton near Fakenham	St. Andrew, ditto
Herringby	St. Mary, ditto
Hilderlands	St. Mary Magdalene, ditto
Hickling	Toftrees
Horsham St. Faith's	Thomson
Holme St. Benedict	Waborne
Ingham	Walsingham
Langley	Wells
St. Mary near Norwich	Wendling
Marmound	West-Acre
Marham, or Markham	Wymondham
Lynn-Regis	Witham, or Winwald
Carmelite Friars in Lynn	Weybridge in Acre
Black Friars, ditto	Wormegay
Grey Friars, ditto	Yarmouth, a Cell to Nor-
Cell to Norwich, ditto	wich
Hospital, ditto	St. Mary, in Yarmouth
Massingham	St. Dominic, ditto
Mendham	St. Francis, ditto

By the above list we find, that the *Defender of the Faith* dissolved no less than seventy-seven religious and charitable houses in this county. Henry VIII. being excommunicated by the Pope for denying his supremacy, and for other offences, he suppressed 1148 monasteries, &c. in England, whose revenues amounted to 183,707l. per annum. Lord Cromwell was made Vicar-general, and visited the religious foundations *with plague, pestilence, and famine*, and the lands were sold at easy rates. In 1539 a statute passed for confirming the surrender of 645 abbeys, 152 colleges, and 129 hospitals. The order of the Knights Templers of St. John of Jerusalem were also suppressed, in the year following.

Besides these religious houses, Norfolk contained several alien priories and decayed hospitals, which were dissolved before the reign of Henry VIII. of ecclesiastic memory, as at Chafely, Downham, Hilgay, Hobbies, Horstead, Lessingham, Lynn, Newbridge in Ickborough, Narford, Norwich, Sheringham, Slevesholm in Methwold, Setchye, Sporle, Thetford, Thorpe-wood, Toft-monks, Walsingham, Wereham, &c. We also read of pilgrimages to our Lady at Reepham, —to St. Spyrit, —St. Parnel at Stratton, —St. Leonard without Norwich, —St. Wандред of Bixley, —St. Margaret of Horstead, —to our Lady of Pity at Horstead, —St. John's Head of Trimmingham, —and to the Holy Rode of Croftwick: And several manors, lands, &c. in Norfolk, belonged to, or were held of religious houses not in the county.

The first monastery in the world was founded in 270, where the sister of St. Anthony retired. The distinction of abbey, priory, convent, free-chapel, chantry, friary, college, collegiate-church, hospital, preceptory, cell, dormitory, hermitage, guild, houses of alms, and for lepers, were

were afterwards given to ecclesiastic or charitable institutions, whether independent or subordinate. Hospitals or preceptories for the Knights Templers of St. John of Jerusalem were peculiars. Cells were houses that belonged to great abbeys, or monasteries. Into these cells the Monks of the abbeys sent colonies when they were too much crowded, or afraid of an infectious disease at home. The Monks were originally confined to drink milk and water, but they soon gave up that diet for wine and ale. Some of these were richly endowed, and luxury kept pace with their increasing wealth. In length of time they became possessed of a third part of all the lands in England, when pride, magnificence, and licentiousness, with all their train, entered their sacred walls, and hastened their dissolution.

Erasmus tells us many stories of the deceptions and enormities practised by the canonical gentry of his day, and Spelman denounced hereditary imbecility on the purchasers of abbey-lands.—*De non temerandis Ecclesiis.*—But both these writers, whatever the authority of their names may be, are fond of the *marvellous*; and Cambden, the best chorographer of the last century, admits many of these miracles.

Walsingham, in this county, was famous throughout England for pilgrimages to the Virgin Mary; for, whoever had not made a visit and present to the Blessed Lady of this place, was looked upon as impious and irreligious; and here the Priests carried on as lucrative a *trade*, by deceiving the ignorant multitude, as the monks of Canterbury, who were in possession of the shrine of Becket. Indeed it was the practice in England, as it is still in Italy and other popish countries, for thousands of people to go there annually to visit the *shrine of our Lady*, as it was called; and they had indulgences granted them in propor-

tion to the sums given to the priests ; for the reader must not suppose that it was from motives of *piety* that they went thither. “ On the contrary, says the English Traveller, we have seen processions of those pilgrims in different parts of Europe, and, without the least exaggeration, they may be reduced to the following classes: Supposing the whole body to consist of fifty of each sex, twenty couple are generally on *love intrigues*,—the second twenty are idle lazy *wagabonds and whores*, whilst the last ten couple may be partly *devotees*, and partly *philosophers*, who go to laugh at the depravity of human nature, and the bare-faced wickedness of the Priests.”

This college of Walsingham had scarce any revenues besides the presents made to the Blessed Virgin : The most valuable gifts only were preserved ; the smaller being appropriated to the maintenance of the prior and convent. In the church was a little narrow chapel of wood, into which the pilgrims were admitted on each side by a small door. There was no light but that of the wax tapers, which had a grateful smell: “ But, says Erasmus, if you look in, you’ll say *tis the seat of the Gods*, so bright and shining is it all over with jewels, gold, and silver.”—Yet, woe to tell ! that very Prince who walked one mile and a half bare-foot to present a rich necklace to the Lady of Walsingham, soon after reduced her Ladyship and her valuable train to their original value—in bullion ! The road of pilgrimage through this county is still visible in many parts, and is called Walsingham Way, or the Milky Way.

There were formerly several convents and hospitals for leprous persons. The people of England in those times must have been sorely afflicted by that loathsome disease in consequence of their not wearing linen, but flannel, and other

ether woollen cloth, next their skin, which must naturally have produced vermin, and at last turned into what was then called the leprosy, and thought incurable, although nothing is more easily performed in this age. Indeed we are scarce able, in this enlightened age, to form any notion of the manner in which our ancestors lived about five centuries ago; for, in the reign of Henry III. we find "straw first used for the King's bed, *anno Dni. 1242.*" And at that time the Court of Henry III. was considered as the standard of politeness for all the other nations in Europe. How different the present times!

Eminent Men.

We have already observed, that "Norfolk hath produced as many great and eminent persons in war, law, learning, and politics, as most counties," among which we shall make biographical mention of the following:

Sir John Fastolff was born at Yarmouth* 1377, and married the Lady Castlecomb in Ireland, with whom he received a great fortune. In 1415 he accompanied Henry V. in his expedition to France, and was appointed Governor of Harfleur, in Normandy. At the famous battle of Agincourt, he behaved with the greatest bravery, and assisted in taking the Duke of Alencon prisoner. As a reward for his bravery the King granted him some lands in Normandy, and conferred upon him the honor of Knighthood.

When Henry V. died, he accompanied John Duke of Bedford, regent of the kingdom, to France, and was present at most of the engagements in which that hero was

* Writers differ about the place of his birth.

concerned, upon which he was made a Baron and Knight of the Garter.

When the English besieged Orleans in 1428, he conducted a convoy of provisions thither, which was of great service to the army, and in 1430, he was appointed Governor of Caen, in Normandy, a place of great importance at that time. About two years afterwards he was sent in conjunction with the Lord Willoughby against the French, under the command of the Duke of Alencon, and obtained several considerable victories.

In 1440 he returned to his native country, where he became as illustrious for his private virtues, as he had been formerly for his patriotism and valor; for Peace presents an opportunity for greatness to display itself equally, if not more than the field. He continued in the exercises of generosity and benevolence to the last, and having lingered some time with an asthma, he paid his last debt to nature 1459, aged 82.

Many have thought that Shakespeare had this hero in view when he wrote his character of Falstaff, but nothing is more improbable, as the one is represented as a base poltroon, whilst the other was adorned with every virtue.

Richard Taverner, Esq. was born in Norfolk 1505, and instructed in grammar learning at the free-school of Norwich, after which he was entered in Bennet's College, Cambridge, but removed from thence to Cardinal Wolsey's New College at Oxford, since called Christ's Church, where he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and afterwards settled in the Inner Temple to study the municipal law of England. A late author tells us, that while he remained in the Temple, he used to cite passages from such

of

of the law books as are in Greek, but it is well known that there never was a treatise on the laws of England in that language, and therefore it must be meant of the Justinian institutions.

It does not appear that he ever was called up to the Bar, for in 1534 he went into the service of Lord Cromwell, who procured him the place of Clerk to the Signet, when he published a new edition of the Bible, corrected from the best manuscripts. When Cromwell was beheaded, Taverner was brought into trouble, and committed to the Tower, but soon after released and restored to the King's favor, which he enjoyed during the remainder of Henry's reign.

Edward VI. granted him a licence, although a Layman, to preach in any church in England, which was then necessary, as few Protestant Ministers could be had. During the reign of Queen Mary he concealed himself to avoid persecution, but on the accession of Queen Elizabeth, he was taken into favor, appointed High-Sheriff and a Justice of the Peace for the county of Oxford.

Whilst he enjoyed these offices, he continued to preach against the idolatry of the Papists, and one time being in the pulpit of St. Mary's, he began his sermon with the following words: "Arriving at the Mount of St. Mary's, " in the stony stage, where I now stand," (St. Mary's pulpit was then built of stone) "I have brought you some biscuits, baked in the oven of charity, carefully served for the chickens of the church, the sparrows of the spirit, and the sweet swallows of salvation."

Such

Such was the vicious taste of those times, when pedantry passed for learning, and affectation for genuine simplicity. He was a very zealous encourager of the Reformation, and not only preached, but wrote and translated several books, in order to promote it. He died at Wood-Eaton, in Oxfordshire, 1575, aged 70.

John Baconthorpe, commonly called the *Subtil Doctor*, was born at Baconthorpe, and educated in a monastery of Carmelites at Blakeney, after which he went to Oxford, and from thence to Paris, where he distinguished himself for his knowledge in metaphysics, at that time the common jargon of the schools.

Upon his return to England he was appointed principal of his order, and sent to Rome to deliver his opinion concerning some points then in dispute, concerning marriage, when he declared " that the Pope had an inherent right to dispense with the laws of God ; " for which he was severely censured by his brethren, and obliged to sign a formal retraction. He was a strong stickler for the philosophy of Averroes, and wrote many books, which are now little regarded by the learned.

He was a person of so universal and profound thought and knowledge, that he was highly admired by the Italians, among whom he commonly went by the name of *The Resolute Doctor*, which induced Paulus Ponsa to write after this manner of him : " If your inclinations lead you to search into the nature of Almighty God, no one hath writ more accurately upon his essence : If one has a mind to search into the causes of things, the effects of nature, and the various motions of the Heavens, and the contrary qualities of the elements, his books present us with a magazine.

This

This one *Resolute Doctor* has furnished the Christian religion with armour against the Jews, stronger than any Vulcan's," &c. He died in the year 1346.

William Bateman was born at Norwich, some time in the reign of Edward I. and studied the civil and canon law at Cambridge, where he took his Doctor's degree before he was 30 years of age, a thing very uncommon in those times. In 1328 he was appointed Archdeacon of Norwich, and some years after advanced to the Deanry of Lincoln. In 1343 the Pope, by virtue of his usurped right, consecrated him Bishop of Norwich, in which office he was confirmed the next year by order of Edward III. He was a very hospitable prelate, and founded Trinity-hall, in Cambridge, for the study of the civil and canon laws.

In 1354 he was sent to Rome, in order to treat of a peace in the presence of the Pope, between England and France; but that journey proved fatal to him; for he died at Avignon, and was buried with great solemnity in the cathedral church of that city. Our historians have related a story concerning this prelate, which will give the reader some notion of the power of Clergy in the dark ages of Popery. Lord Morley having killed some of the Bishop's deer, and abused his Park-keeper, that Nobleman was obliged to do penance, by walking barefooted through the city of Norwich with a wax candle of six pounds weight in his hand, and kneel down before the Bishop in the cathedral to ask his pardon. All this he was obliged to comply with, although the King had sent an express order to the contrary.

He was a great lover of learning, and promoter of the study of it, as appears from hence: 1. That in his travels beyond

beyond sea he perceiving that our common law was there in no request, and thinking it necessary that the English should have skill in the canon and civil laws, (for the managing of foreign negotiations at least) erected a College in Cambridge, called Trinity-hall, for the study of it. 2. He also was the person who induced Dr. Gonvile, then Professor of Divinity in the same University, to build another college, which from him was called Gonvile-hall, which Dr. Caius afterwards changed into a college.

Matthew Parker, D. D. was the son of a tradesman in Norwich: when he was about twelve years of age his father died, but his mother took particular care of his education, and in 1520 he was admitted a Student in Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, of which society he was elected a Fellow, and became Chaplain to Anne Boleyn, whom he attended to the scaffold, and received particular instructions from her “ to see that her daughter Elizabeth was brought up in the fear of God.” He became a zealous promoter of Reformation during the reign of Edward VI. who promoted him to the Deanry of Lincoln; but on the accession of Queen Mary he was deprived of his benefice, and obliged to conceal himself privately from the rage of the Papists, who had marked him out for destruction.

On the accession of Queen Elizabeth his circumstances were happily altered, and he was raised to the archiepiscopal see of Canterbury. The Papists invented a story, that he was consecrated by Laymen at the Nag’s Head, in Cheapside; and although the records of his consecration have been published by Mason, Burnet, and Strype, yet the ignorant vulgar are still taught to believe the story. In 1727 a learned French Priest, and a staunch Roman Catholic,

Catholic, published four volumes in refutation of this slander invented by his own brethren.

Parker having been thus placed at the head of the church, and well knowing that he would have all the art of the Papists to contend with, took care to have the sees filled with the most learned men, and the universities put under such regulations, as should prevent Papists from settling there to poison the minds of the youth. He was at great expence in rebuilding his palace at Canterbury, and founded a free-school at Rochdale, in Lancashire. He was chiefly concerned in translating and publishing the English Bible, which was the first English translation done from the Hebrew and Greek, the former one having been mostly from the Latin of Erasmus.

This Bible was appointed, and continued to be read in all the churches and chapels in England, till the reign of James I. when the present translation was undertaken by order of that Prince, although the Psalms of the former Bible are still used in the public service of the church. After a life spent in many noble and pious works, he died at Lambeth 1575.

With all these qualifications as a divine and scholar, he has been justly blamed for his severity to the Puritans; but it must be considered that the people's minds in that age were narrow and contracted, they having but lately been brought over from Popish idolatry.

Parker was buried under an altar monument in Lambeth chapel, but during the civil wars one Colonel Scot having got possession of it, he pulled down the tomb, and took up the coffin, which he found to be lead, and sold it to a

plumber, after having tumbled the body into a hole near an out-house, where poultry was kept.

John Kaye, or, as he is sometimes called, Caius, was born at Norwich in 1510, and studied in Gonvile-hall, Cambridge, from which he removed to visit foreign countries, and took his degree of Doctor of Physic in the university of Padua. In the reign of Edward VI. he returned to England, and was appointed principal Physician at Court, a place which he likewise enjoyed under both the Queens, Mary and Elizabeth.

The College of Physicians in London elected him one of their Fellows, and he presided at the head of that body several years. Being very rich, and desirous to promote learning as far as was in his power, he procured a charter from Queen Elizabeth, dated 1565, to turn Gonvile-hall into a college, and endowed it with the greatest part of his estate. He lived as an ornament to his profession till July, 1573, when he died at Cambridge, aged 63.

He wrote an excellent book of the Antiquities of Cambridge, which when he presented to James I. as he passed through his college, the King said, “ Give me rather Caius de Canibus :” A work of his, as much admired, but hard to be got. He was Master of his college some time ; but in his old age having resigned the Mastership to Dr. Legg, he lived a Fellow-Commoner in his college, where, having built him a seat in the chapel, he constantly attended the prayers. He lies buried in the chapel, under a plain tomb, with no other epitaph but this,—*FUI CAIUS.* —His successor in his Mastership was

Thomas

Thomas Legg, Doctor of Laws, who was also a native of Norwich. He was bred in Trinity College, where he was Fellow, as also at Jesus, till he was chosen by Dr. Kaye, then living, the nineteenth Master of Gonville-hall, but second Master of Kaye's College. He was Dean of the Arches, one of the Masters of Chancery, twice Vice-Chancellor of the university of Cambridge, and thirty-four years Master of this college. Justus Lipsius gives him a character, that he was a very excellent antiquary, and an oracle of learning, able to resolve all doubts in that kind. He was a great benefactor to this college, bequeathing 600l. for the building the East part thereof, besides several lesser liberalities. Thomas Bacon, the fifteenth Master of Gonville-hall, had done great wrongs to it, and left it in debt; but this Doctor, and his two successors, Doctors Braithwaite and Goflin, going in Kaye's steps, (all natives of Norwich) repaired all losses, acting not so much like Masters as Stewards for the house. He was a serious man, and to gratify himself he wrote two tragedies, viz. *The destruction of Jerusalem*, and *The Life of King Richard III.* which last was acted before Queen Elizabeth with applause, in St. John's College-hall. This Doctor died July 12, 1607, *aet. 72*, leaving the college his heir, in which he was buried.

John Aylmer, D. D. was born at Aylmer-hall, in the parish of Tilney, 1527, and educated in the university of Cambridge, where he took his degrees, and became tutor to Lady Jane Gray, daughter of the Marquis of Dorset. His first living in the church was the Archdeaconry of Stow, and in the convocation, which met in the beginning of the reign of Queen Mary, he was one of the six divines who offered to dispute with all the Popish Clergy in defence of the Protestant religion. But he soon found that the supreme power did not intend to argue by words, but

by force. He was obliged to abscond, and having the good fortune to get beyond the seas, there he remained till the accession of Queen Elizabeth, when he returned to England, and was made Archdeacon of Lincoln. He was afterwards promoted to the Bishopric of London, 1576, which he held till his death in 1594.

There is a strange inconsistency in the characters of some men. Aylmer had a considerable share of learning, and had suffered much for his opposition to Popery; but no sooner was he raised to the episcopal office, than he persecuted the Puritans with the greatest severity; for those people, among whom were many learned men, having wrote some pamphlets against the Bishop, he took the same method in answering them as the Papists had done with himself, namely, that of calling in the assistance of the civil power, by which many of them were thrown into prison, where they suffered great hardships.

This conduct of the Bishop's was entirely opposite to the spirit of Christianity, which allows of no other force besides rational conviction.

He left a great estate to his eldest son, Samuel Aylmer, who was High-Sheriff of Suffolk in the reign of Charles I. and one of his youngest sons, Dr. Aylmer, Rector of Had-dam, in Hertfordshire, was one of the most learned and reverend divines of his time.

Sir John Gresham was born at Holt, in this county, in 1507, and brought up at the university of Cambridge, from whence he removed to London, and entered into partnership with his brother, Sir Richard Gresham, an eminent mercer and merchant. He served the honorable office of Sheriff of London during the year his brother was Lord Mayor,

Mayor, 1537, and founded a free-school at the place of his nativity, which is under the direction of the Company of Fishmongers.

Both he and his brother continued to flourish in trade, and projected the scheme of building an Exchange in London, which was afterwards compleated by Sir Thomas, son of Sir Richard. He was Lord Mayor in 1547, and died in 1556, aged only 49.

Sir Thomas Gresham, Knt. was born at Gresham, and being bred a mercer and merchant in the city of London, God so blessed his diligence and care in trading, that he became one of the wealthiest men in England, and by God's grace proved one of the richest in good works; for he founded, 1. The Royal-Exchange, a kind of college for merchants for the improvement and benefit of trade. He laid the first stone, June 7, 1566, and it was finished November, 1567. The city provided and cleared the ground for this building, and this good and wealthy man erected the whole at his own charge. It was built of brick, and covered with slate, and named by Queen Elizabeth *The Royal Exchange*, when on January 27, 1570, she entered into it, and with sound of trumpet caused an Herald so to call it, as ordering it to bear that name in all future ages. But this is not the building that is now so called, and is standing in Cornhill, London, bearing the same name now; for the great fire in 1666 consumed Sir Thomas Gresham's, with the greatest part of the city. The present edifice, or burse, was erected at the charge of the city and Mercer's Company, in 1669, who were at the equal expence, and cost about 50,000l.

2. Gresham College, which was some time his dwelling-house, which, with the profits of the cellars, shops, vaults, warehouses, offices, &c. of the Royal-Exchange, he gave to the Mayor and Commonalty of London, and the Company of Mercers, to be equally divided and enjoyed upon the following conditions, viz. " That the Mayor and Commonalty of London do provide four qualified persons to read lectures of Geometry, Divinity, Music, and Astronomy, every day in Term-time, and allow them each 50l. per ann. as also to pay yearly to eight alms-folk in his alms-house, in the parish of St. Peter le Poor, 6l. 13s. 4d. and 10l. each to the prisoners of Ludgate, Newgate, the King's-Bench, Marshalsea, and Woodstreet-Compter, to be distributed among the poor in those places. As also that the Company of Mercers do find three readers out of their moiety for the said college, viz. of Civil Law, Physic, and Rhetoric, to read lectures in the said sciences every week in Term-time, and allow them 50l. a year each, and 50l. per ann. to the Hospitals of Christ-Church, St. Bartholomew, Bedlam, and Southwark, and the Poultry-Compter 10l. in money, or other provisions, ordering and appointing further, that the said seven Lecturers shall have the occupation of all the said house, with the appurtenances, there to inhabit, study, and duly to read the said several lectures; which conditions, if the said Mayor, &c. and Company of Mercers, do truly observe, they shall enjoy the Royal-Exchange for ever, otherwise it shall revert and return to his heirs.

Sir Edward Coke, Lord Chief-justice of the King's-Bench, and the greatest Lawyer that ever lived in England, was born at Mileham 1550, and educated in Trinity College, Cambridge, where he remained about four years, and

and then removed to Clifford's Inn, London, where his father, who was an eminent Barrister, had chambers.

The next year he was entered a Student of the Inner Temple, where he applied himself so assiduously to his studies, that his merit soon became conspicuous; for a case having been started concerning the privileges of the Cooke, it puzzled all the Benchers, till Mr. Coke discussed it in the clearest manner, for which the society ordered him to be called up to the Bar before the usual time.

When admitted a Counsellor his business continued to increase, and he was chosen reader of the lecture of Lyon's-Inn, which was much frequented by the young Nobility and Gentry at that time. He married an heiress, Bridget Paston, with a fortune of thirty thousand pounds, who bore him ten children, and the cities of Norwich, London, and Coventry, each elected him their Recorder.

In the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, he was chosen Speaker of the House of Commons, having been returned Knight of the Shire for Norfolk, and soon after appointed Solicitor-General. In 1596 his Lady died, and the year following he married Lady Hatton, widow of Sir William Hatton, with whom he received a considerable fortune: and when the Earl of Essex was indicted for high treason, he was appointed Attorney-General, in order to carry on the prosecution against that unfortunate Peer.

Upon the accession of James I. he received the honor of Knighthood, and carried on the prosecution against Sir Walter Raleigh with so much vehemence, that many have blamed him for being so severe, but we may naturally impute his zeal to pride, and an earnest desire of prefer-
ment;

ment. When the Gun-powder Plot was discovered, he gained reputation by the sagacity and vigilance he shewed in unravelling all the dark scenes of that hellish contrivance, for which the King ordered him to be called up to the degree of Serjeant, when he gave the following motto on his rings,—*Lex est tutissima Clavis*, i. e. The law is the safest helmet. He was soon after raised to the dignity of Chief-justice of the Court of Common-pleas, which he held about six years, and was then made Lord Chief-justice of the King's-bench.

When it was discovered that the Earl of Somerset and his Lady were concerned in the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury, Lord Chief-justice Coke granted his warrant for apprehending them, which was served upon the Earl while he was at supper with the King at Theobald's. So merſet claimed his Majesty's protection, but the King answered in his vulgar manner, “ Gude faith maun, I canno “ help it, for if Coke send for me, I must gang to him as “ well as you.”

The King was apprised of the scheme, but although the murderers were convicted, yet they were not executed. In 1616 he was suspended from his office because he would not countenance any incroachments on the liberty of the subject.

During the remainder of the reign of King James, he continued to serve in Parliament, and acted as a Privy Counsellor; but having spoken with great freedom in the House of Commons, his Chambers in the Temple were broke open, all his papers seized, and himself committed to the Tower.

On the accession of Charles I. when it was found necessary to call a new Parliament, he was pricked down Sheriff of Buckingham-shire, lest he should have been returned one of the representatives; so that the man, who had been Chief-justice of England, was obliged to attend as a Bailiff on the Judges.

In 1628 he was returned Knight of the Shire for the county of Buckingham, and argued warmly for the redress of grievances, and likewise drew up the petition of rights, upon which all our liberty is founded. Having done every thing in his power to serve his country, he retired to his house at Stoke-poges, in Buckingham-shire, where he spent the remainder of his days in tranquillity, and died 1634, with the utmost resignation and piety, aged 83.

“ Sir Edward Coke, Knt. was a person of admirable parts (says Mr. Cambden) than whom, as no man ever applied himself closer to the study of the common law, so never did any man understand it better; of which he has given a convincing proof to England by his discreet management for many years together, while he was Attorney-general, and executed the office of Lord Chief-justice of the Common-pleas with the greatest prudence. Nor has he given a less demonstration of his abilities in his Commentaries upon our Laws, whereby he has obliged not only his own age, but posterity.” But State-policy values nothing when it stands in the way of its designs. This wise Judge would do nothing against law while he was in so great a station, and therefore he was displaced in 1615, and retired to his seat at Godwick, where he triumphed in his own innocence, and rejoiced in his misfortunes, which gave him leisure to look into himself; for now he reviewed all his writings, had constant prayers in his house, relieved the

poor daily, supported Sutton's Hospital and Thetford Free-school, and founded a school at his own charge in this place. He had when he was a private Lawyer secured some lands to the church of Norwich, which had like to have been lost; and when he was retired, hearing that a Peer had called the same lands in question, and was laboring to get them, he went to him and desired him to desist from that attempt, telling him, " that if he did not, he would put on his gown and cap, and plead in any Court in Westminster-hall in justification of what he had done." He had many benefices in his gift, and freely gave them to such men as he thought worthy of them, saying, in his law-language, church-livings should always pass by livery and seisin, not by bargain and sale.

He was a man of admirable parts, and of a comely countenance, delighting in good cloaths, saying, *The neatness of the body might denote the purity of the soul.* He died worth ten thousand pounds a year, so that though he had many children, they might be said to be all heirs. His last words were, *Lord! Thy Kingdom come! Thy will be done!* Sir Henry Spelman says, " the birth of this great man might presage his wonderful excellency; for his mother was delivered of him so suddenly, by the fire-side, that she could not be soon enough carried up to her bed, which stood in the room above;" and adds, that Sir Edward shewed him the very place. He lived partly at Godwick and at Mileham, his birth-place, where the house is still to be seen.

It has been advanced by those whose minds were never inlarged with reading and study, that the law is a dry, useleſs, insignificant science; but we think that even insanity could never advance such an assertion. All that is dear or valuable to the free born subjects of this nation, is secured

secured by the municipal law, and if the most prejudiced reader will only look over the institutes, and reports of cases adjudged by Lord Coke, they will be convinced, that of all sciences in the world, that of the law is the most rational, as being suited to the nature of man, considered as a member of society. Without it the ends of government must be defeated, and all the order and regularity amongst the different ranks of beings become an universal chaos, and return to its original state of confusion.

Sir Henry Spelman, the great Oracle of the Law, Patron of the Church, and Glory of England, one of the greatest Antiquarians that ever lived in this nation, was born at Congham in 1562, and educated in Trinity College, Cambridge, from whence he removed to Lincoln's Inn, and studied the laws of his country, rather as a science than with any prospect of gain, for he had a considerable estate of his own, and married a lady with a great fortune.

In 1606 he was pricked down High-sheriff for the county of Norfolk; and the year following appointed one of the Commissioners to regulate disputes between the pretenders to freehold estates in Ireland. After this he retired from public business, and spent the remainder of his days in studying the history and antiquities of his country, of which he has given the world a noble specimen in his **Glossary**, which explains all the ancient customs and terms used by our Saxon ancestors, and ought to be had in the library of every person who studies either Law or History. He died in 1641, aged 79, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

John Cosin, D. D. was born in the city of Norwich 1594, and finished his studies in Caius' College, Cam-

bridge, where he took his last degrees. When he entered into holy orders, he was presented to a Prebendary in the Cathedral church of Durham, and appointed Arch-deacon of the East-riding of Yorkshire; but the civil wars breaking out, and Cosin having been very active in establishing Popish rites and ceremonies, he was ejected from all his preferments, and obliged to seek refuge abroad, till the restoration of Charles II. 1660, when he returned to England, and was promoted first to the Deanry of Peterborough, and then to the Bishopric of Durham.

We have seen several of his compositions, which seem to have been written on the plan of the Popish mystics, and during the eleven years that he was Bishop of Durham, his sole study was to promote superstitions, by making the people conform to all the ridiculous rites made use of by idolatrous Papists. He died at Durham 1672, aged 78.

John Pearson, D. D. was the son of a Clergyman in Norfolk, where he was born 1613. He received the first rudiments of grammatical learning at Eaton, from whence he was removed to King's College, Cambridge, where he finished his studies, and took his degrees.

His first ecclesiastical preferment was a Prebendary of Salisbury; and soon after he was chosen Rector of St. Clement's, Eastcheap, where he remained till the Restoration 1660; for he complied with the ruling powers during the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell. It was during his residence in that parish that he wrote his elaborate and learned explanation of the Creed, which is now in high repute in all the Protestant nations in Europe, and remains a striking proof of his vast abilities and erudition.

At the Restoration he complied with the Act of Uniformity, and was appointed Archdeacon of Surrey; and on the death of the learned Dr. Wilkins, he was promoted to the see of Chester, where he continued till his death 1686. Besides his learned exposition of the Creed, he published a vindication of St. Ignatius's epistles, which we think was the worst thing he could have attempted, as those epistles are undoubtedly forgeries.

Sir Roger l'Estrange was born at Hunstanton 1617, and when the civil wars broke out, he obtained a commission in the Royal army, but having acted as a spy for the King, during the siege of Lynn-Regis, he was apprehended, and condemned to lose his life, but was afterwards reprieved, although he suffered a long imprisonment in the gaol of Newgate.

Having obtained his liberty, he went abroad, but returned again during the usurpation of Cromwell, when he was taken into custody; but upon a remonstrance made to the Protector, he was set at liberty. Upon the restoration of Charles II. he set up a news-paper, which was continued till the Gazette was begun, under the direction of Sir Joseph Williamson. When the disputes began in the House of Commons, concerning the Exclusion Bill, l'Estrange became a zealous partizan for the Duke of York, and wrote a periodical paper, called the Observator. He was concerned in all the dirty work carried on to promote Popery, and arbitrary power, during the reign of James II. although it does not appear that ever he became a convert to Popery.

He executed the scandalous office of Licenser to the Press, which was abolished at the Revolution, when Sir Roger lost all his employments; and not having been one

of the best economists, he was obliged to spend the remainder of his days in writing and translating for the booksellers. He was certainly a man of great abilities; but learning bestowed on a time-serving wretch, is like beauty intrusted with a prostitute.

Thomas Shadwell was born in this county 1640, and educated in Caius and Gonvile College, Cambridge, from whence he removed to the Middle Temple in London, to study the law of England; but not liking so laborious a profession, he went abroad, and spent several years in France and Italy. Upon his return to England he became acquainted with the most celebrated wits at the debauched Court of Charles II. and commenced a writer for the stage.

At the Revolution, when the celebrated Mr. Dryden was turned out, Mr. Shadwell was appointed Poet-Laureat in his room, and likewise Historiographer Royal, which brought upon him the indignation of his predecessor, who ridiculed all his performances in the poem called *Mach-fleckno*. He enjoyed these employments only a few years, for he died 1692, aged 52, and since his death a monument has been erected to his memory in Westminster Abbey. His works were published in four volumes octavo.

Robert Brady, M. D. was born in Norfolk, some time in the last century, and educated in Caius and Gonvile College, Cambridge, where he took his degree of Master of Arts, and soon after entered his name on the physic line. Having taken his Doctor's degree, he was appointed Physician in Ordinary to Charles II. and Regius Professor in the university of Cambridge. He was likewise made Keeper of the Records in the Tower, and acquired a considerable degree

degree of knowledge concerning the constitution of this country ; but having unhappily imbibed notions inconsistent with the freedom of the subject, he wrote a History of England, in three volumes folio, wherein he endeavours to establish the doctrine of non-resistance and passive obedience.

This work has been animadverted on by Lord Lyttelton, in a manner becoming the abilities and patriotism of that noble author. Dr. Brady died 1700.

Sir Cloudsley Shovel was born of poor parents at Cley, or at Cockthorpe, 1650, and bound apprentice to a shoemaker, whom he soon after left, and went as a cabin-boy on board one of the King's ships. Being of a very tractable disposition, he soon acquired the knowledge of navigation, and whilst very young, was promoted to be a Lieutenant by Sir John Narborough, who then commanded the fleet.

In 1674 he was sent into the Mediterranean to demand restitution of some ships which were detained by the Dey of Algiers, where he behaved with so much resolution and bravery, that on his return to England he was advanced to the command of a larger vessel.

During the reign of James II. he adhered to the interest of his country, and although he was sent to command one of the ships in that fleet, destined to oppose the Prince of Orange, yet he did not act, but immediately joined with the popular party.

During all the wars in the reign of King William, he behaved with so much bravery, that he rose to the dignity of an Admiral ; and Queen Anne honoured him with Knighthood.

Knighthood. He continued in a state of activity, as a gallant naval officer, till his death, which happened in the following manner :

Being appointed to conduct a fleet of ships from Gibraltar to England, 1707, he proceeded as far on his voyage as Scilly Islands, where his ship was unfortunately lost, and himself, with the whole of his crew, amounting to nine hundred men, drowned. Such was the end of one of the bravest men that ever commanded the English navy; but the Queen, out of respect to his memory, caused a fine monument to be erected for him in Westminster Abbey.

Humphry Hody was born in Norfolk 1658, and finished his studies in Wadham College, Oxford, of which he was chosen a Fellow, and soon after became Chaplain to the learned Doctor Stillingfleet, Bishop of Worcester. By the interest of Doctor Tennison, Archdeacon of Canterbury, he was advanced to several considerable livings; and the university of Oxford elected him Professor of the Greek language.

He was a very learned man, and spent several years in studying the Septuagint translation of the Old Testament, and in writing notes on Aristeas's history of that celebrated work. He died at his chambers in Oxford 1706, aged 48, and was buried in the chapel of Wadham College.

Samuel Clarke, D. D. was the son of Edward Clarke, Esq. one of the Aldermen of Norwich, where he was born 1675, and educated at the Free-school of that city, his father being at that time one of the Representatives in Parliament.

In 1691 he was entered as a Student in Caius College, Cambridge, where his impatient thirst and great capacity for learning began to shew themselves. The system of Des Cartes was then the favorite doctrine of the schools, but Mr. Clarke was not satisfied with the dreams of that author, but set himself to study the principles of Sir Isaac Newton, to which he joined the knowledge of the mathematics. He did not, however, forget to attend to that learning necessary to the profession for which he was designed, but applied himself with great diligence to acquire a perfect knowledge of the Old and New Testament, and published his first three dissertations concerning baptism, confirmation, and repentance, together with some reflections on Toland's Amyntor.

Upon his entering into holy orders he became Chaplain to the learned Doctor Moore, Bishop of Norwich, with whom he lived in great esteem, having the advantage of the fine library of that gentleman. In 1704 he was called to an office, worthy of all his learning and knowledge, namely, that of preaching the lecture founded by the Honorable Mr. Boyle, which he performed with such success, that his sermons on that occasion, concerning the evidences of natural and revealed religion, will always be considered as one of the strongest and clearest proofs of those important principles. Soon after his preaching the sermons at Boyle's lectures, he was presented to the living of St. Bennet's, near Paul's Wharf, London, and preached constantly without notes. In the same year he translated the optics of Sir Isaac Newton into elegant Latin, which was so acceptable to that great man, that he presented Mr. Clarke with five hundred pounds, being one hundred to each of his children.

He was soon after made one of the Chaplains in Ordinary, and in 1709 Queen Anne presented him to the rectory of St. James's, Westminster; when he went to Cambridge, and took his degree of Doctor in Divinity.

On the accession of the present royal family he was honored with many marks of their esteem, and might have been raised to the highest dignity in the church; but he was certainly unsatisfied with subscriptions. His zeal for true religion, integrity of manners, unaffected humility, were as eminent as his vast knowledge; and he united the various talents of mathematician, philosopher, critic, metaphysician, and divine, to such a degree, that he might have shone with a distinguished lustre in any one of those characters. This truly great and learned man was seized with a pleurisy on Sunday morning, May 11, 1729, and died the Saturday following, aged 54.

Thomas Herring, D. D. was the son of a country Clergyman in Norfolk, where he was born 1693. He was instructed in grammar learning at the Free-school of Wisbech, in the Isle of Ely, from whence he removed to Jesus College, Cambridge. He entered early into holy orders, and having gone through a variety of ecclesiastical preferments, he was promoted to the Bishopric of Bangor 1737.

In 1743 he was translated to the see of York, and when the rebellion broke out, he was very instrumental in keeping the gentry throughout his province in subjection to the government.

In 1747 he was advanced to the see of Canterbury, which high dignity he enjoyed till his death, 1757. Dr. Herring was one of the best men that perhaps ever lived in England.

England. The higher he rose in the church, the greater was his diligence, not only to discharge the duties of the pastoral office, but also to support his afflicted fellow-creatures, and when he died he had scarce any money left; but he was rich in good works!—He died aged 64 years.

Robert Bale, a Norfolk man, was Prior of a small monastery of White Friars, or Carmelites, at Burnham-Westgate. He was in his youth entered among the Carmelites at Norwich, but spent most of his time among those at Oxford and Cambridge, for his improvement in Divinity. At length he became Prior of the Carmelites here, and was held in great veneration by all for his great love of learning and learned men. He was assiduous in reading divinity and histories of all kinds, and for that end got together a considerable library of books, which he left to his house here. He wrote *Annales per breves Ordinis Carmelitarum ab anno Mundi 3042.*—*Historia Elie Prophetæ.*—*Officium Simonis Angli*, i. e. *Simon Stock*, the most holy Carmelite of the order, who many years after his death was canonized; and several sermons, which were handed about among his order. He died in 1503, the 18th of Henry VII. and was buried in this monastery.

Dr. Thomas Lushington, Rector of Burnham-Westgate, one of the greatest scholars of his time, and on that account preferred to a Prebendary of Salisbury, King's Chaplain, &c. He was thought a little to favor Socinus, yet his books shew no such thing, of which he published several, viz. *A Comment on the Galatians*; *Logica Analytica*; *The Resurrection rescued from the Soldiers Calumnies*, &c.

Sir Francis Walsingham, Knt. was a great scholar, and particularly an excellent linguist, not so much for his

knowledge of other tongues, as for the dexterous use of his own, which brought him to be employed in the greatest affairs of the kingdom. He was first sent an Ambassador into France, where in the heat of the civil wars he continued long, because he managed his place so wisely and warily ; and when he returned he was rewarded with the office of the Secretary of State, in which station his conduct is hardly to be paralleled ; for he *surprized* business, and out-did even the Jesuits at their own weapon, over-reaching them in their mental equivocations and reservations, not by doing as they did, but by crafty-fetches drawing from them the truth. He never lost his aim in any business he labored to carry, and as often over-threw what he undertook to disappoint, by which arts he did great services for the nation, which he was only ambitious to excel in ; for he twice deceived the French as Agent, once settled the Netherlands as Commissioner, and twice altered the Government of Scotland as Ambassador. He laid the foundation of the Protestant Constitution as to its policy, and the main plot against the Popish as to its ruin : He was a studious and temperate man, so public-spirited, that he spent his estate to serve the kingdom, so faithful to his Sovereign as to lay out all his thoughts and pains to serve her, and so learned as to provide a library for King's College, In fine, he equalled, if not surpassed, all the Statesmen of former ages, and none in these latter have excelled him.

He was descended from Sir Richard Walsingham, of Walsingham, who was Representative for this county, 33 Edward III. as his ancestors had been in two former reigns.

William

William Wells, a Provincial of the order of Augustinian Monks in England, was a native of Wells. Pitz in his book of English Writers, says, "he was a native of the city of Wells, the cathedral see of Somerset-shire;" but Dr. Fuller, in his Worthies of Norfolk, proves the mistake thus: "Let it be referred to any indifferent judgment, whether he was not rather of Wells, in Norfolk, seeing he had his constant converse in this county, living and dying an Augustinian Monk in the convent of Lynn." He was twenty years Provincial of his order, and a Doctor of Divinity in Cambridge, an industrious man, and a good writer, abating only for the Siboleth Barbarism, the fault of the age he lived in. He died and was buried at Lynn, *anno Dom. 1421.*

Robert Rede, an eminent goldsmith, and Lord Mayor of London in 1502, was a native of Cromer.

Dr. William Rugg, *alias* Repps, Bishop of Norwich in the reign of Henry VIII. was born in the village of North-Repps. He was bred up in Gonville-hall, Cambridge, where he commenced D. D. and after was made Abbot of St. Bennet in the Holme. He was one of those Cambridge Divines that took abundance of pains that Henry VIII. should have such a judgment from the university about his divorce from Queen Catherine, as he desired, which at last he effected, and as a reward for his labor the King made him Bishop of Norwich after the death of Dr. Nix. He was chose by the Monks, May 31, 1536, and confirmed by the Archbishop June 28 following; but he did not enjoy the benefits of his see, as his predecessors had done, long; for soon after he was made Bishop, he was obliged to change all his lands and manors of his see for the

the revenues of his abbey of St. Bennet in the Holme ~~for~~
 ever, under a pretence indeed of increasing the possessions
 of his Bishopric, though they really came far short of them.
 He was a stiff Roman Catholic, and having had some dis-
 course with Bilney and Latimer about their Protestant
 principles, did not spare to misrepresent them, which
 moved Mr. Spencer, the friend of the two former, to
 write a treatise, which he intitled, *A Trialogue between
 Thomas Bilney, Hugh Latimer, and William Repps*, to shew
 the just complaints they had against him. But the greatest
 instance of his zeal for the Popish doctrines and church,
 which we meet with, was this: When one John Peke, of
 Earl-Stoneham, in Suffolk, was burnt at Ipswich, Dr.
 Reading declared, that to as many as should cast in a stick
 into the fire, for the burning of this heretic, this Bishop of
 Norwich had granted by him forty days of pardon; where-
 upon Sir John Audley, Knt. Barne Curson, Esq. and many
 others of estimation being there present, did rise from
 their seats, and with their swords cut down boughs, and
 shew them into the fire, which example the multitude
 followed. He resigned his Bishopric January, 1549, and
 died September, 1550.

Sir Simon de Felbrigg, Knt. of an ancient and num-
 erous family at Felbrigg, married Margaret, the daughter
 of the Duke of Theise, niece to the King of Bohemia, in
 right of which Sir William Tyndal, Knt. their great-
 grandson, was declared heir of the kingdom of Bohemia,
 in the reign of Henry VII.

William Paston, Esq. son of Clement Paston, Esq. of
 Paston, was learned in the laws of this nation, and was
 first made Serjeant to Henry VI. and afterwards by the
 same King raised to be 2d Judge of the Court of Commona
 pleas;

pleas; and being much in favor with that Prince, he was allowed by him, besides the ordinary salary given the other Judges, one hundred and ten marks, and two gowns yearly, to be taken out of the Exchequer. These preferments were but the continued marks of his virtue and learning in the former reigns, for he was created Serjeant at Law by Henry IV. and of his council for the Duchy of Lancaster; and in the reign of Henry V. Sir John Fastolf, Knt. appointed him one of his feoffees, and enabled him, by a writing under his hand, to recover debts from the executors of Henry V. He married the daughter and heiress of Sir Edmund Berry, by whom his family gained not only a great accession to their estate, but a considerable advancement in honor and blood, being rightly entitled to the arms of the families of Hetherst, Wachesham, Craven, Gerbridge, Hemgrave, and Kerdeston. He died at London, August 14, 1444.

Sir Clement Paston, Knt. was a great soldier, and as such did many noble exploits; for he was at the burning of Conquest, in France, in the reign of Henry III. and being made a Captain by that King of one of his ships of war, he, in a sea-fight with the French, took a galley with Baron Blancard, the French Admiral, in it, and kept him at Caistor, near Yarmouth, till he received 7000 crowns for his ransom, besides the spoil of the galley, which was a cup and two snakes of gold, with many other things of value, which he used on festivals as long as he lived, and at his death left to his posterity. He was left for dead at the battle of Musselborough, in Scotland, and served at Newhaven, having the command of some ships there. He lived to be very old, having been Pensioner to two Kings and two Queens successively, and having spent his old age in quiet and good housekeeping, he died at Oxnead.

Sir Robert Paston, of Paston, Bart. who in former troublesome times greatly distinguished himself by his loyalty to Charles I. not fearing to hazard both life and fortune in assisting his Majesty to reduce his rebellious subjects to their obedience; and though disappointed of that by his Majesty's not only falling into, but falling by the hands of his disloyal and capricious subjects, yet he was not disheartened from using his utmost endeavours and power to effect his son's Restoration, and till that could be accomplished, willingly engaging his estate to supply his necessities: In consideration of which loyalty and services, Charles II. did by his letters-patent create him Lord Paston, of Paston, and afterwards Viscount and Earl of Yarmouth. He died in 1682, and left William, his eldest son, his successor in honor and estate, who married Charlotte, surnamed Fitz-Roy, natural daughter of Charles II.

Sir Thomas Erpingham, of Erpingham, Knight of the Garter, accompanied Henry Duke of Lancaster when he returned from banishment, and attempted to gain the kingdom, and going with Henry V. to the battle of Agincourt, cast the rod, as a fortunate presage of a successful battle.

Sir William Woodhouse, of Waxham, Knt. was the jester of James I. He was the first person that erected duck-traps, commonly called *decoys* among us, which he thus contrived. He drew from a large pond compassed with reeds on the one side, a long canal, which was very narrow at the farther end. In this canal certain ducks are kept, and taught to draw in others. These fly up and down all the country, and being joined by flocks of their own kind, bring them into this pond, and after a while lead them into the canal, which is spread over with nets. When they

They have swam in it a little way, a dog trained up for that purpose appears to drive them up to the end of the net, where, when they are near arrived, the tame ducks dive behind the wild, and the wild rising are taken in the decoy-man's nets. As many ducks are catched this way in one year as have been sold for some hundreds of pounds. The Germans will not allow them, because they hinder the pleasures of the gentry.

Arthur Wilson, Esq: born at Yarmouth, wrote the life and reign of James I. with so much freedom, that he is often censured for it; nay more, is said, instead of an history, to have written an infamous pasquill. He had an opportunity of knowing the transactions of James I. and his Court, because he was an attendant for many years upon Robert D'Evereux, Earl of Essex, and his friends, whom he favours very much all along in his history, as he does also Robert Earl of Warwick, whose Steward he was after the Earl of Essex's death. The great fault of his history is, that he hath in many things endeavoured to make the world believe, that James, and his son after him, were inclined to Popery, and designed to bring that religion into England; which to effect he is guilty of many misrepresentations of both speeches and actions, and built much upon conjectures and surmises, instead of authentic papers and records. He died at Felstead, in Essex, anno 1652.

Thomas Whitfield, who was the author of divers books against Lay-preachers; *The Arminian Tenets concerning Election, Redemption, &c.* printed at London, 1649; *Of Liberty of Conscience*; *The Extent of God's Providence*, printed ib. 1651, &c. was Minister of Yarmouth. He ran with the times when the King and Episcopacy were outed; but

conformed at the Restoration of Charles II. when he obtained the Rectory of Bugbrooke, in Northampton-shire.

Dr. Thomas Soame was born in Yarmouth : He was the son of a fisherman, but descended of an eminent family of that name ; his cousin, John Soame, being a man of so good an estate, that he paid a composition of 1430l. for it, and was then dwelling at Burnham, in this county. He was, after he had passed his school education, bred up in academic learning in Peter-house, Cambridge, where his uncle, Robert Soame, was Master, and being admitted into holy orders, became Minister of Staines, in Middlesex, and Prebendary of Windsor. He was, in the times of rebellion, a firm royalist, and so much compassionated his Majesty's want in his war with the Parliament, that he was not mindful of his own ; for he sent all he had to the King ; so that when the Rebels came to plunder him, they found nothing to take but himself ; which they accordingly did, and imprisoned him first in Ely-house, and then in Newgate, and in the Fleet, because he had so much of the primitive religion in his excellent sermons, and so much of the primitive practice in his looks, demeanour, and life, being reckoned a blessing in those sad times to all the places wherever he came, by his fatherly aspect and zealous prayers, as well as by his divine, and in many things prophetic discourses. He died not long before the Restoration of Charles II.

Ralph de Waher, or Guader, born in this county*, of French parentage, was constituted Earl of Norfolk and Suffolk by William I. He was owner of the castle of Guader, in Bretaigne, in France, and had nine manors of

the

* Probably at Halvergate, or Halfriat.

the Conqueror's gift, in Norfolk, yet rebelled, and died in banishment.

— Breton, Bishop of Hereford, was born at Witchingham, as was also John Breton, who was so much mentioned in the reign of Henry III. Sir Godfrey de Mellers, Knt. a person well descended, and a good soldier, sought to lie with the daughter of John Breton; which she having acquainted her father with, appointed a night when the Knight should steal privately into her chamber. Being laid wait for, and taken, he was first grievously wounded, then whipped severely, being drawn up by the feet to a beam, and lastly, had his privy members cut off, as a certain dainty Clergyman was served about the same time; which, when the King heard of, he was concerned, and caused it to be proclaimed, " That no man should maim any adulterer in his privities, but for corrupting his wife."

Godfrey Bullen, or Boleyn, born at Sall, the son of Jeffrey Bullen, a mercer, in London, who was Lord Mayor of the said city in the year 1457. He was a second son, and so was sent to London to get an estate, while his elder brother inherited one; but this also came to him, because his brother died without issue male, and so he became very rich, which made him rich in good works: for he, by his Testament, gave liberally to prisoners, hospitals, and lazars, besides a 1000l. to poor house-keepers in London, and 200l. to those in Norfolk: But his greatest honor was, that he was great-grandfather, by the mother's side, to Queen Elizabeth.

Nicholas of Lynn, born in Lynn-Regis, and bred at Oxford, generally accounted a Franciscan Friar, though Bale will have him a Carmelite, because he was so himself. He was an excellent musician, mathematician, and astro-

loger. He is said to have sailed in 1330, by the help of his astrolabe, as far as the Arctic-pole, and to have wrote a book of his discoveries there, which is intitled, *Inventio Fortunata*. Sure it is that our Chaucer, the poet, had a great esteem for him, stiling him “ Frere Nich. Linn, a Reverend Clerk.” He died about the year 1360, and was buried at Lynn, the place of his nativity.

Alan of Lynn was also born in Lynn-Regis, and being educated at Cambridge, where he obtained the degree of Doctor of Divinity, became a Carmelite Friar in this town. He was a diligent reader of many voluminous authors, and that others might reap some benefit by his labors, he composed indexes to most, or all the authors he perused. Bale gives us a specimen of his Herculean labors in setting down the writers to which he made indexes, as he saw them in the Carmelite library at Norwich.

1. <i>Egidius.</i>	18. <i>Gerard Laod.</i>
2. <i>Alcuinus.</i>	19. <i>Gilbert.</i>
3. <i>Ambroſius.</i>	20. <i>Gorham.</i>
4. <i>Anſelmus.</i>	21. <i>Gregory.</i>
5. <i>Aquinas.</i>	22. <i>Haymo.</i>
6. <i>Auguſtinus.</i>	23. <i>Hierome.</i>
7. <i>Balonthorp.</i>	24. <i>Hilary.</i>
8. <i>Baſil.</i> *	25. <i>Hugo.</i>
9. <i>Bede.</i>	26. <i>Josephus.</i>
10. <i>Belethus Bles.</i>	27. <i>Neckham.</i>
11. <i>Bernard.</i>	28. <i>Origen.</i>
12. <i>Berthorius.</i>	29. <i>Euseb. Pamph.</i>
13. <i>Caffianus.</i>	30. <i>Phil. Ribot.</i>
14. <i>Caffodorus.</i>	31. <i>Raban.</i>
15. <i>Chrysostome.</i>	32. <i>Renigius.</i>
16. <i>Cyril.</i>	33. <i>Richard.</i>
17. <i>Damascene.</i>	

His collections were allowed very compleat. He flourished *anno 1420*, and was buried at Lynn, in the convent of the Carmelites.

John Barret, born of honest parentage in Lynn-Regis, was bred a Carmelite of White Friars in Cambridge, when learning ran very low, and degrees high, interest or money, not knowledge, purchasing them. The university was so sensible of this abuse, that they appointed Dr. Cranmer Poser-general of all candidates in divinity, who stopped this our Barret for insufficiency. Barret quickened with this disgrace returns to Lynn, and there applied himself so diligently to his study, that in a short time he became an admirable scholar, and having commenced Doctor with due applause, lived many years a painful preacher in Norwich, ever speaking of Dr. Cranmer honorably, as the only means of his happiness. Bale says, "That in the reign of Queen Mary he became a zealous Papist;" which if true (though Bale's praises are better believed than his invectives) we may hope, that though he complied in times of persecution, he returned to the truth in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, in the beginning of which he died.

William Watts, M. A. of Caius College, Cambridge, an admirable critic and divine, was born in or near Lynn-Regis. Jo. Ger. Vossius calls him *Doctissimus & Clarissimus Watsius qui optime de Historia meruit, &c.* He by his travels became master of divers languages, and at his return was made Chaplain to Charles I. Minister of St. Albans Woodstreet, in London, and Prebendary of Wells; but being sequestered, plundered, and his wife and children turned out of doors, he fled to the King, served under Prince

Prince Rupert, and was in most of the battles fought with the Parliament forces. Upon the declining of the King's cause, he stuck still to the Prince and served at sea, till being blocked up with him in the harbour of Kinsale, in Ireland, he was overtaken with an incurable distemper, of which he died in 1649. He was a considerable writer, and had an especial hand in Sir Henry Spelman's Glossary, and corrected, added notes to, and published *Matthew Paris's Historia Major* in 1640; as also divers treatises in English, as the history of *Gustavus Adolphus*; *Mortification Apostolical*; a treatise on the *Passions*, &c.

William Gale, a Norfolk man born, took upon him the habit of the Augustin Friars in Lynn-Regis. He studied among the brethren of his order at Oxford several years, and proceeded Doctor of Divinity in that university. He was made at length Provincial of all his order in England, being accounted a most eminent person for literature and piety, and a prime example of virtue among them. He left to posterity these books: 1. *Lectiones in Theologia*. 2. *Disputationes Variæ*. 3. A course of Sermons for the whole year, preached to the people. He died in 1507, in the 23d of Henry VII.

Fœlix, the Apostle of the East-Angles, having landed from Burgundy at Babingley, anno Dni. 630, he converted the inhabitants to Christianity, and built the *first* church there that was erected in those parts. He was brought into England by Sigibert, King of the East-Angles, who became a convert to the Christian religion in France, and received baptism of Fœlix. Fœlix having spread and established the faith in many parts of England, formed a regular system of church doctrine, and fixed his *episcopal* *see*

see at Dunwich, then called Siltheftow. He sat seventeen years, and died in 647, the 13th of King Anna.

Thomas Thorowgood, one of the assembly of divines, was Minister of Grimston. He published these books : 1. *Jews in America.* 2. *Moderation Justified.* 3. *A Few Sermons on Phil. iv. 5. before the House of Commons in 1644.*

St. Goderick the Hermit, of whose life and miracles M. Paris gives a relation at large, was a native of Walspole.

Of the many great and eminent persons of the illustrious family of Howard, we must refer our readers to the particular genealogy given at Fornet, in Depwade hundred at Wiggenhall, Lopham, Castle-Rising, &c.

John Colton, D. D. born at Terrington, was made, for his excellent endowments, Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of Ireland, by Richard II. for, as Leland says, he was *plus quam mediocriter doctus & bonus.* He was First Chaplain to William Bateman, Bishop of Norwich, and appointed the First Master of Gonville-hall, (now Caius College) in Cambridge, by the founder of it. He was employed in an embassy to the Court of Rome, about the Schism made in it by Urban VI. and Clement VII. which gave him occasion to write a learned treatise, *De Causa Schismatis*, and a little after another, *De Remediis ejusdem.* He resigned his Archbischopric a little before his death, which happened in 1404.

Sir William Yelverton, Knt. of the Bath, of Rougham, was Lord Chief-justice of the Court of King's-bench in 1444: Sir Christopher presided in the said Court under

Queen

Queen Elizabeth, and Sir Henry in the reign of Charles I. This last's relation to Sir Thomas Overbury brought him into the Earl of Somerset's favor, whose interest with the King preferred him to be first one of his Counsel, and then his Attorney-general; but by whom he got it for the same he lost it; for when the Earl of Somerset was to be tried for poisoning Sir Thomas Overbury, he refused to do his office in impeaching his patron, and ruin him, who made himself, which was so much resented by the King and Council, that he not only displaced, but imprisoned him in the Tower. The Duke of Buckingham knowing his abilities, after some time got him released, and advanced him to the Judge's Bench; but his niceness and narrowness could not keep it, being too good a man to follow Court measures, and so he was put out.

Andrew Perne, born at East Bilney, who being bred up in Peter-house, was Fellow and Master of the said college, Proctor and Vice-chancellor of the university, and Dean of Ely. He was very bountiful to his college, in which he founded a Fellowship and some Scholarships, and acquired many rare manuscripts, which he put into the library. In Queen Mary's persecution he screened the university by his flexible principles, so that no gremial of the university suffered martyrdom. He is indeed blamed for altering his religion four times in twelve years, but it may be said for him, that if his compliance was faulty, his charity was singular, who endangered himself to save others, who had else been persecuted, and perhaps had fell more foully.

Withburga, the daughter of King Anna, who divorcing herself entirely from all luxury and levity, lived a Virgin all her days, and was buried at Dereham; she being much admired for her sanctity, was by our ancestors canonized for a Saint.

Sir

Sir Richard Southwell, of Wood-Rising, Counsellor to Edward VI. and his brother, Robert Southwell, Esq. at the same time Master of the Rolls. Of the same family was Sir Robert Southwell, Principal Secretary of State for the kingdom of Ireland, and President of the Royal-Society, who by Charles II. had been employed in several negotiations abroad.

The Rev. Christopher Sutton, Minister of Wood-Rising and Cranworth, was educated at Oxford, and having entered into orders, was not only the Minister of these places, but was made Prebendary of Westminster by James I. for his excellent and florid preaching. In his cures he was a great promoter of piety, and for that end wrote several books, as 1. *Disce vivere; or, the Art of Living well.* 2. *Disce mori; or, the Way to die well.* 3. *Meditations upon the Lord's Supper,* of which there are thirteen editions. 4. *Godly Meditations on the Divine Presence.* He died in 1629, and was buried in St. Peter's church, Westminster.

Ralph de Hingham, of Hingham, was Lord Chief-justice of the King's-bench in 1274, 2d of Edward I. when the King was newly returned from the Holy Land. He held that post fifteen years, and was one of the Judges that was cast out of his place by Parliament for corruption, being fined, banished, and imprisoned, with nine more, two only escaping, viz. John de Mettingham, and Elias de Beckingham. This Ralph was amerced 7000 marks for bribery, and displaced; but after his fine was paid, he gave such signs of a true repentance, and such satisfaction to the public for his faults, that he was made Chief-justice of the Common-pleas in the next reign, 1st of Edward II. and dying soon after, was buried in St. Paul's church.

Sir Oliver Hingham, a right valiant man, whom Edward III. left Governor of Aquitain, in France, an honorable but difficult place, being engaged to hold out a great country with a few men, against a fierce and numerous enemy, yet he gave a good account of his trust; for when the French lay before Bourdeaux, the citizens there set open their gates, and raised the golden lillies upon their towers, as if they yielded themselves to them; but they were no sooner entered, but brave Oliver, who was Governor of the city and country, gave them such an entertainment, that “they did not drink so much claret in the city as they left blood behind them.” This happened in the 13th of Edward III. He lived many years after, and was made Knight of the Garter, and when he died was buried as Hingham, under a fair tomb of freé-stone, curiously wrought, with his effigy in coat of armour.

St. Walstane, of Bawburgh, who being neither Monk, nor Priest, vowed (they say) to live chaste without a wife, and performed his promise by fasting on Fridays, and Saints Vigils, without any other grace or gift given him of God. He died *3d kal. Junij, anno 1016*, and became, after the manner of Priapus, the God of their fields in Norfolk, and guide of the harvest, insomuch, that mowers and scythe-followers used to seek to him once a year. John Capgrave, in his Legend of the Saints, says, “That both men and beasts which had lost their privy-parts, had new members again restored to them by praying to him.”—*Bale's Act's of the Engl. Vot.*

Sir Thomas Richardson was born at Mulbarton, his father at that time being Minister there. He was bred up in the common-law, and grew so eminent in the practice of it, that he became the King's Serjeant, and at length was
fword

sworn Chief-justice of the Common-pleas, November 28, 1626, in which station he died about eight years after, and was buried under a brass monument on the South-side of Westminster-Abbey.

Sir Jacob Astley, who served his Majesty Charles I. as Major-general of his royal army in the battles of Kineton, Brainford, Newberry, Lestwithiel, and several other sharp encounters with the Parliament forces, and was Governor of Oxford and Reading for some time; for which great and faithful services he was created Baron Astley, of Reading, in Berkshire, November 4, 1644. He was the son of Isaac Astley, of Melton-Constable.

Walter de Norwich, who in the 5th of Edward II. was made one of the Barons of the King's Exchequer, and had summons to Parliament in the 8th year of the same reign, was a person much in favor with his Prince, and besides the grant he obtained of him for a free-warren in all his demesne lands in this and other counties, he was made Treasurer of the Exchequer, and held that office some years.

Sir John de Norwich, Knt. who was summoned to Parliament as a Baron in the 16th of Edward III. was Admiral of the King's whole fleet to the Northwards, and was several times in the wars against Scotland and France, in which he did so many signal services, that the King gave him two allowances out of his Exchequer; the one of sixty pounds fourteen shillings, and the other of fifty marks per ann. &c.

Sir Tho. Browne, born at St. Michael's Cheap, London, but chiefly admirable for his practice of physic in the city of Norwich, where he settled himself in 1637, was much

resorted to by patients for his extraordinary skill, and practised with good success many years. With respect to his great worth he was made a *Socius Honorarius* of the College of Physicians in London, and in 1671 had the honor of Knighthood conferred upon him by his Majesty Charles II. who was then at Norwich. He died October 19, 1682, and lies buried in the chancel of St. Peter's of Mancroft; but will ever live in the esteem and admiration of the learned, for the several writings he hath published, as

Religio Medici, i. e. *The Physician's Religion*: A book so much valued, that it has been translated into French, Italian, Dutch, German, &c. and perused by many curious and learned men of those nations, as well as England, with great delight. Alexander Rosse, a Scotchman, answered it in a book, intitled *Medicus Medicatus*; but Sir Kenelm Digby thought it worth his time to make some English annotations upon it. It was printed at London in 1642.

Pseudodoxia Epidemica; or, *An Enquiry into such common and vulgar errors, as ordinarily pass for received Truths*. First printed at London, in 1646, and last in 1673, much enlarged by the author, with many explanations, additions, and alterations. This book was also answered by Alexander Rosse, in his *Arcana Microcosmi*, and John Robinson's *Eudoxa*.

Urn Burial; or, *A Discourse of Sepulchrial Urns lately found in Norfolk*. Printed at London, in 1658. To which is added, *The Garden of Cyrus*; or, *The Quincuncial Lozenge, and Network Plantations of the Ancients, Artificially, Naturally, and Mystically considered, with Observations*.

Certain

Certain Miscellany Tracts, No. 13. Printed at London, in 1686. With an Epistle prefixed by the Publisher, Dr. Thomas Tennison, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. All these works, and some few more, were printed together, in folio, in 1686.

Richard Foulsham, a Monk of the city of Norwich, was a person much beloved by Thomas Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury, for his singular piety and extraordinary learning. It is probable he had been a great traveller; for all that we find of his writings is only two books of epistles, many of which are written to his correspondents at Rome. He flourished in 1410.

John Stow, a Benedictine Monk of the monastery of St. Saviour, in Norwich, and Doctor of Divinity of Oxford. It appears by his works that he was at the Council of Basil. Those works are, *The Acts of the Council at Basil*; *Various Collections*, and *Solemn Disputations*, &c. He flourished in 1440.

John Mear, a Monk of Norwich, and Doctor of Divinity of Oxford, was a person of subtle wit for explaining difficulties. He is said to have been Divinity-reader in several monasteries, and to have been a frequent preacher. His works were preserved in the library of Norwich, till the suppression of monasteries; but now we have only these titles of them: *On the Master of the Sentences and Sermons*. When he died it doth not appear.

Thomas Brinton, or Brampton, another Monk of Norwich, who had attained to such an eminency for learning in the schools of England, that his fame was spread abroad beyond sea, and he was sent for by the Pope to Rome, where he often preached before him in Latin, and being

first made his Penitentiary, was afterwards raised to the see of Rochester. His sermons preached before the Pope were published with some others.

Edward Browne, son of Sir Thomas, born in Norwich, at first a great traveller, and after his return became a Fellow of the Royal Society, and of the college of Physicians, (where he was Censor in 1683) and Physician in Ordinary to his Majesty Charles II. He hath written and published, 1. *A brief Account of his Travels in Hungaria, &c. with some Observations on the Gold, Silver, &c. Mines, Baths, and Mineral Waters in those Parts.* 2. *An Account of his Travels through a great Part of Germany, in four Journeys.* Printed at London in 1679. 3. *He has several Discourses also in the Philosophical Transactions and Collections.* And 4. *He has translated the Lives of Themistocles and Sertorius out of Plutarch's Greek into English.* Printed at London, in 1683 and 1684.

John Goslin, born in Norwich, was first Fellow, and then Master of Caius College, in Cambridge, Proctor of that university, and twice Vice-chancellor thereof, a general scholar, eloquent Latinist, and a rare Physician, in which faculty he was Regius Professor. He was a great benefactor to Catherine-hall, bestowing on it the Bull-inn, of considerable value, which being now added to the college, makes it very spacious, which before was close, and almost suffocating. He died in the Vice-chancellorship in 1625.

Robert Watson was born in Norwich also. He was excellently well skilled in the laws, and was Steward of the Courts of Archbishop Cranmer, as Bale tells us, *Descript. Brit. Cent. 9, No. 81.* Being imprisoned for his religion in Queen Mary's time, he often disputed, during his restraint, with several Papists concerning Transubstantiation;

tiation ; and having at length gained his enlargement, he wrote a treatise in elegant Latin, (dedicating it to such as with him had suffered banishment, or imprisonment, for religion) wherein he relates the accidents of his life,

Sir Peter Read, though not certainly known to be a native or inhabitant of Norwich, yet may deserve a place here, because he lies buried in St. Peter's church there, having this inscription on his monument :

“ Hereunder lieth the corps of Peter Read, Esq. who bath worthily served not only his Prince and country, but also the Emperor Charles the Fifth, both at his conquest of Barbary, and his siege of Tunis, as also in other places, who had given him by the said Emperor the Order of Barbary, who died the 29th of December, in the year of our Lord God 1566.”

If it be demanded why this title of Knight was not set on his tomb, but Esquire only ? It is answered, he was knighted by the Emperor, and Queen Elizabeth would suffer no foreign honors to be worn by her subjects in her dominions, saying, *Her sheep should be known by her own mark only.* Camb. Eliz.

Thomas Spenser, son of Leonard Spenser, of Norwich, being from his youth addicted to learning and piety, became a Carthusian at Henton, in Somersetshire, from whence he went to Oxford to go through a course of divinity. Being returned he wrote, 1. *A Comment on the Galatians.* 2. *A Trialogue between Thomas Bilney and Hugh Latimer, two Protestants, with William Repps, afterwards Bishop of Norwich, a Roman Catholic, in 1536.* He died

in 1529, and was buried in his monastery, leaving behind him a rare example of piety.

Henry Howard, youngest son of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, and brother to Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, was born at Shottisham. He was bred a serious Student for many years in King's College, Cambridge, and afterwards in Trinity-hall, where waving the advantages of an honorable birth, he proceeded by the ordinary steps to the degree of Master of Arts. He, by his diligence, became a great and general scholar, as he proved himself to be by his large and learned work, intitled, *A Dispensation against the Poison of supposed Prophecies*, which he dedicated to Sir Francis Walsingham, then Secretary of State to Queen Elizabeth, with what design is not known; but with whatever it was, he lived privately all that Queen's reign; but when James I. came to the Throne, he being noted for his learning, was drawn from his retirement, and highly preferred by that Prince; for in the 1st year of his reign he was constituted one of his Privy-council, Warden of the Cinque-ports, and Constable of Dover-castle, and in the end of the same year advanced to the honor of a Baron of this Realm, by the title of Lord Howard, of Marnhill, and Earl of Northampton, and not long after appointed one of the Commissioners for exercising the office of Earl Marshal of England, and installed one of the Knights of the most noble order of the Garter, and a year or two after made Lord Privy Seal: All which preferments being heaped upon him, not so much for his noble pedigree, as for his learning, sucked from the breasts of his mother, the University of Cambridge, which relation obliged that learned body to chuse him their Chancellor.

He was left a younger brother's estate by his father, which was but small, and before his preferments, by his eldest brother, Thomas Duke of Norfolk's death, was at one time reduced to so low a fortune, that when he wanted a dinner in London, and had no money to buy one, he was forced to dine with Duke Humphrey in St. Paul's; but fortune changing in James's reign, he attained to great wealth, honor, and command. He never married, and so not having children to provide for, he perpetuated his memory by noble and pious works, which is much the best way of using riches; for besides a noble house at Charing-cross, which he built for himself out of the ruins of a certain religious-house that stood there, called Rownceval, he founded and endowed an hospital for twelve poor women, and a Governor, at Castle-Rising, in Norfolk, as is there related; and another for twelve poor men, and a Governor, at Clun, in Shropshire; and another at Greenwich, in Kent, for a Governor and twenty poor men, eight of which are to be chosen out of the village of Shottisham, where he was born.

He died at his house near Charing-cross, June 15, 1614, and was buried in the church of Dover-Castle, under a goodly monument of white marble, with an epitaph, briefly comprehending what is before mentioned memorable of him in elegant Latin, either contrived or composed by John Griffith, his Secretary.

Sir James Hobart, of Hales-hall, near Loddon, Attorney-general to Henry VII. who knighted him, with his son, the Prince of Wales. By his many charitable and public-spirited acts, he deserved well of the church, the commonwealth, and his country. Sir Henry Hobart, a Judge in James the First's reign, was collaterally descended from

him. He was one of the first of the polite orators of his time, and his reports are esteemed by the lawyers the best for smoothness of language. He was made a Baronet at the first creation, and stands the ninth in the list. He was Attorney-general, and afterwards Lord Chief-justice of the Common-pleas; Chancellor to the Prince of Wales, Member in Parliament for Norwich, and Governor of the Charter-house. His descendant, Sir Henry Hobart, was several times Knight of the Shire for this county, but was some years ago killed in a duel by Mr. Le Neve. The Baronetage is now in the Right Hon. the Earl of Buckinghamshire.

John Leman, an eminent fishmonger, son of John Leman of Gillingham, was Lord-mayor of London in the year 1616.

John de Thorp, born at Thorp-Abbots, was bred a Carmelite Friar in Norwich, and commenced a Doctor at Cambridge. Logic seems to have been his chief piece of learning, in which he most delighted, for he wrote a book, which he intitled, *The Labyrinth of Sophisms*, and another, which he called *The Rule of Consequences*, for which he got the title among the academics of *Doctor Ingeniosus*: But Dr. Fuller says, if he was ingenious he was not ingenuous; to every pound of wit he had hardly a drachm of good nature; for he was of a cruel disposition, and a violent persecutor of William White, and other godly followers of Wickliffe. He died anno Dom. 1440.

Sir William Le Neve, Clarencieux King of Arms, of Aftafton, was educated at Caius College, in Cambridge, and being made his Majesty's servant, closely adhered to his cause, and often ran the hazard of his life in the civil wars, in summoning garrisons to surrender to the King, and

and upon denial proclaiming them traitors, as well as lost his estate. He was very skilful in his art, and made many collections of ceremonies, funeral-inscriptions, &c. often quoted by Elias Ashmole, Esq. in his book of the institution of the Order of the Garter. He was in his latter days lunatic, and dying at Hodsdon, was buried at St. Benet's Paul's-wharf, London, August 15, 1661. We suppose the late Peter Le Neve, Esq. of the Herald's-office, was descended from him.

John Skelton, the King's Orator and Poet-laureat, is an honor to Diss, being the Minister of it. 'Tis probable he was born in this county, because it is well known there has been a family of that name long fixed here, but the place not being found out, we choose to speak of him where he was Minister. Erasmus, a man of unquestionable judgment, gives this character of him in his letter to Henry VIII. *Britannicarum Literarum Lumen & Decus*, i. e. The light and honor of the British learning. Indeed he was scholar enough, and no bad poet, unless for himself; for giving himself too much to satire, he created three such enemies as ruined him both in reputation, liberty, and estate. William Lilly, the great Schoolmaster, and author of our Latin grammar, he reflected upon as a bad versemaker, to which Lilly replied,

Skelton, dum tibi parare famam,
Et doctus fieri, studes poeta,
Doctrinam nec habes, nec es poeta.

That is,

*Whilſt Skelton thou to get esteem
A learned poet fain woulſt seem,*

*Skelton thou art, let all men know it,
Neither learned nor a poet.*

The Dominican Friars were very obnoxious to his satirical pen for their vices, and he could not forbear exercising his wit upon them; but they would not bear any reproofs, much less his poetical scoffs, whereupon they stirred up Richard Nix, Bishop of Norwich, to call him to account for keeping a concubine, which the Bishop accordingly did, and suspended him from his benefice for it. Cardinal Wolsey compleated his misfortunes, for he having inveighed against some of that great Prelate's actions, and charged him with too much truth, the Cardinal so prosecuted him, that he was forced to take sanctuary at Westminster, where Abbot Islip treated him with much respect. In this confinement he died June 21, 1529, and was buried in St. Margaret's chapel, under a stone, with this epitaph on it:

J. Skeltonus Vates Pierius hic situs est.

He foretold Cardinal Wolsey's downfal, and being charged with keeping a concubine, and having several children by her, he said, "in his conscience he ever esteemed her for his wife," though he did not declare it, because fornication was thought a little sin, and marriage a great one. He wrote fifty several things upon several subjects, some of them whimsical enough, as on the Virgin of Kent, Sonnets on Dame Anne, Elenor Rummin, the famous Ale-wife, Colyn-Clout, &c.

We have the copy of a severe satire, intitled, "Skelton, Laureate, against the Scottes," on the battle of Floddon, September 9, 1530, which concludes thus:

" Of the out yles, the rough-foted Scottes,
" We have well eased them of the bottes,

" The

" The rude rancke Scottes, like droncken dranes
 " At Englysh bowes have fetched their banes;
 " It is not fitting in tower or towne
 " A summer to were a Kyngē's crowne.
 " Fortune on you therefore did frowne,
 " Ye were to hye, ye are cast downe.
 " Syr Summer, now, where is your crowne?
 " Cast of your crowne, cast up your crowne,
 " Syr Summer, now, ye have lost your crowne.

*Quod Skelton, Laureate, oratour to the
Kinge's most royal eftate."*

Sir Thomas Lovel, of East Harling, Knight of the Garter, Treasurer of the Household, and President of the Council in the reign of Henry VII.

Sir Thomas Gaudy, of Gaudy-hall, in the parish of Reddenhall, Serjeant at Law, and brother of Sir Thomas Gaudy, Knt. Lord Chief-justice of the King's-bench, and Sir Francis Gaudy, Knt. Lord Chief-justice of the Common-pleas, had a seat at Harling.

Sir John Williamson, Knt. one of the principal Secretaries of State in the reign of Charles II. built the townhouse at Thetford at his own expence, and gave the corporation a mace, and sword, but it is not certain whether he was a native of the borough, or only represented it in Parliament.

Sir John Knevet, Knt. of Buckenham-castle, was Lord Chancellor in the reign of Edward III. and Thomas Lord Knevet, of Ashwelthorpe, was a descendant of his.

Thomas.

Thomas Weyland, of Oxburgh, Lord Chief-justice of the Common-pleas in the 18th of Edward I. was, with several others of the Judges, banished for his notorious bribery, by Parliament.

Edward Barkham, the son of Edward Barkham, a draper, in London, was Lord Mayor in the year 1621.

Dr. Robert Burhill, or Burghill, Minister of Northwold, was bred in Corpus Christi College, Oxford, of which he was Probationer Fellow, and being in holy orders had this parsonage conferred on him, and not long after a residentialship in the church of Hereford. He was a person of great reading and judgment, well versed in the fathers and schoolmen, a good linguist and disputant. Sir Walter Raleigh much valued him for his great learning, and used his assistance in composing his History of the World. His works answer his character, viz. *Invitatorius Panegyricus. Oxf. 1603. Responso pro Tortura Torti. Lond. 1611. Affertio pro Jure Regio. Lond. 1613*; with divers manuscripts in the Bodleian library, Oxford.

Hubert Walter was born at West Dereham, and being bred up under the famous Lord Chief-justice Glanville, became Dean of York in 1168. In 1188 he founded the abbey of West Dereham, and next year was preferred to the Bishopric of Salisbury. He was also one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and in 1193 became Archbishop of Canterbury; he was Lord Chancellor under Richard I. Legate to Pope Celestine IV. and Lord Chief-justice of all England. His uncle was Chief-butler of Ireland, from whom the noble family of Butler, Dukes of Ormond, are descended. No clergyman, before or after him,

him, had so great power and authority, and no man ever used it with greater prudence and moderation, (a character seldom to be met with) being Prime Minister of Richard I, and King John.

Sir William Fermor, of East Barsham, was a very famous Knight in the reign of Henry VIII. and built there a most stately palace.

Sir Roger Townshend, Knt. of Rainham, was one of the Justices of the Common-pleas in the reign of Henry VII. He was entered a Student of Lincoln's-inn, and elected a Governor and Lent-reader of the same. In the 17th of Edward IV. he was called to the degree of Serjeant at Law; in 1480 summoned to be an Assitant to the House of Lords in Parliament; in the 1st of Edward V. King's Serjeant at Law, and next year he was appointed a Judge. He was Member in Parliament for Calne, in Wiltshire, and died November 9, 1493.

Sir Christopher Mims, and Sir John Narborough, Knts. were born at Cockthorpe, a small village near Wells, where also Sir Cloudefley Shovel drew his first breath. These three natives of Cockthorpe were great Admirals in their time.

Boadicea, Queen of the *Iceni*, held her court at her palace of Kenninghall: at the head of the Britons she attacked the Romans, burnt London, and massacred 70,000 of its inhabitants; but soon after being defeated by Suetonius, poisoned herself *anno Dni. 59.* History does not inform us where she was born.

Anne

Anne Boleyn, Queen Consort of Henry VIII. was born at Blickling, the daughter of Sir Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wiltshire, by a daughter of the Duke of Norfolk; she was married November, 1532, was crowned June 1, 1533, tried by order of the King on a charge of incest with her brother, and, though not guilty, convicted, and beheaded May 14, 1536, aged 29.

Edwin, the Dane, came over with Canute, and marrying the heiress of the Saxon Lord Thoke, became Lord of Sharnbourne, which name he then took; but this estate being given by the Conqueror to William Earl Warren, he so ably pleaded his priority of right, and neutrality of conduct, in person before the Conqueror, that the King ordered the inheritance of Edwin de Sharnbourne to be restored to him. This is an instance of temerity of the subject, and justice of the Sovereign, not usual in those barbarous times. This very ancient family are lately extinct.

Of Sir Robert Walpole we need say nothing more than, that he was born at Houghton, August 26, 1674, and in 1700 was chosen Member for Lynn-Regis, for which place he served till 1742, excepting one session, 1711, when he was expelled the House. He filled the offices of a Lord of the Admiralty, Secretary of War, and Treasurer of the Navy, but was removed from his employments in 1710. He came again into office in 1714, but in April, 1717, resigned. In 1721 he held the same places again; was a Knight of the Bath, 1725; Knight of the Garter, 1726; a Governor of the Charter-house, 1727; and High-steward of Lynn-Regis, 1738.

In December, 1741, he resigned all his places at Court, and was created Earl of Orford, &c. and died in London, March 18, 1746, aged 70. In the hundred of Gallow the reader

reader will find a more particular account of the life and family of this great Statesman.

Persons of Note in this County, whose birth-place, or abode, are not known, or if known, not mentioned before.

Gilbert Berkley was a native of this county, descended of the ancient Barons of that name, as his arms shew. He was consecrated Bishop of Bath and Wells in the 1st of Elizabeth, and sat therein twenty-two years. He died of a lethargy, November 2, 1581, in the 80th year of his age, and lies buried on the north side of the communion-table in the Cathedral there.

John Towers, born in this county, Fellow of Queen's College, in Cambridge, and Chaplain to the Earl of Northampton, who bestowed on him the benefice of Castle-Ashby, in Northamptonshire, and further recommended him to his Majesty Charles I. to be his Chaplain, by which means he came to be first Dean, and then Bishop of Peterborough in 1638. He was one of the Protestant Bishops, and sent with the rest to the Tower, where they all continued (but the Bishops Moreton and Hall) eighteen weeks before they obtained their liberty; after which he betook himself to his Majesty at Oxford, and having remained there till the surrender of that place, he returned to Peterborough, where he found his revenues all seized, and the people so set against him, that he was continually alarmed with threatenings and molestations to the time of his death, which happened but twenty-one days before his Royal Master's martyrdom. He underwent many and great afflictions from the times, and felt great wants, having many

children, and little to support them; but he had learnt to bear with patience what Providence brought upon him, and died in obscurity, but was buried in the Cathedral.

William Ward, father of Humble Lord Ward, a wealthy goldsmith, of London, and jeweller to Queen Mary, was descended of an ancient family of that name in this county. He left a large estate to his son, Humble, much about the time that Charles I. fell into his distress by the unparalleled defection of his subjects, *anno* 1642, which this Gentleman taking as a seasonable opportunity of shewing both his duty as a subject, and gratitude as the son of his servant, sent several supplies of money to his Majesty, which the King having then no way to requite but conferring titles of honor, did, in consideration that he had married Frances, the niece and heiress of Edward Lord Dudley, first make him a Knight, at Oxford, January 24, 1643, and then a Baron by the name of Lord Ward of Birmingham, March 23 ensuing.

Sir Robert Venile, Knt. of whom Sir Richard Baker, *Chron. 3 Ed. III. page 181*, gives this account: “Here must not be forgotten Robert Venile, Knt. a Norfolk man, who when the Scots and English were ready to give battle, a certain stout champion of great stature, commonly called Tournhall, coming out of the Scotch army, challenged any Englishman to meet him in a single combat. This challenge Robert Venile accepted, and in his march towards the champion, meeting a black mastiff-dog, which waited on the champion, he suddenly with his sword cut him in two at the reins, and afterwards did more to the champion himself, cutting his head from his shoulders.” Dr. Fuller tells us, “he could not by all his industry find

this

this relation of so famous a man in any other historian," and so the credit of it depends upon the author.

Edmund Gourney was born and beneficed in this country, but the place is not known. He was bred in Queen's and Bennet's Colleges, Cambridge, where he commenced Bachelor of Divinity. He was an excellent scholar, and could be merry or serious as he pleased, but never was profane towards God, or injurious to his neighbour, in his jests, and so might be allowed to please himself, if he gave no one else cause of displeasure. He was a found Antipapist, as his books against Transubstantiation, and upon the second Commandment, both of them learnedly and judiciously written, do testify. He died in the beginning of the civil wars.

Henry Walpool, elder brother to Michael and Richard Walpool, Jesuits, was educated at Cambridge, and then thought to be inclined to Puritanism, but being retired from that University, became a zealous Roman Catholic, and going to Rome, entered himself into the Society of Jesus in 1584, and being sent into England in 1593, to make converts, he was seized on at his first entry, and imprisoned at York, for denying the Queen's supremacy over the church of England, where while he lay, several books composed by him of a treasonable nature were seized, as *The Martyrdom of Edmund Campion*, &c. of which being convicted, he was hanged, drawn, and quartered there, April 17, 1595.

William Stafford, a Norfolk man born, and nobly descended, was a Student of Christ Church, Oxford. He was a Member of the House of Commons for a time, and wrote a little piece, intitled, *An orderly and plain Narration of the Beginning and Causes of this war, with a conscientious*

tious Resolution against the Parliament Side. He died in Gloucester-shire, about anno 1683, *aet. 90.* He left a son, John, father of Richard Stafford, author of a book, intitled, *Of Happiness, &c. Lond. 1689.*

The Author of the *Magna Britannia*, from whom we have selected the aforesaid account of *Eminent Men*, has also a long list of persons whose zeal for the cause of Protestantism, during the furious reign of Queen Mary, subjected their persons and estates to dire persecution ; and, for their sufferings, are stiled martyrs. This detail is followed up by a train of afflictions, imprisonments, confiscations, maiming, burning, and all the evils concomitant with bigotry and superstition ; but we decline recording the particulars of that accursed inquisition, judging it more for the honor of humanity and religion to bury such diabolical proceedings in total oblivion.

Peers of Norfolk.

We have before observed, that this county gives titles to very few Peers of England. Many of the ancient Baronies are extinct, and the independent Gentlemen do not bask themselves in the sun-shine of *Court favor*, else titles might spring up like mushrooms.—The reign of James I. was the hot-bed of Nobility and Knighthood !

His Grace Charles Howard, Duke of Norfolk, is also Earl of Norfolk and Norwich ; and Baron Howard of Castle-Rising, in Norfolk.

His Grace Augustus Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Grafton, is Viscount Thetford, in Norfolk.

The Right Hon. George Walpole, Earl of Orford, Viscount and Baron Walpole, and Baron of Houghton, in Norfolk.

The Right Hon. John Hobart, Earl of Buckinghamshire, is Baron Hobart of Blickling, in Norfolk.

The Right Hon. George Townshend, Viscount Townshend of Rainham, is also Baron Townshend of Lynn-Regis, in Norfolk

The Right Hon. Horatio Walpole, Baron Walpole of Wolterton, in Norfolk.

The Right Hon. Thomas de Grey, Baron Walsingham, in Norfolk.

The Peerages of Norfolk now extinct are,

N O R F O L K.

Hugh Bigot had a charter as Earl of Norfolk in the reign of Henry II. which, in the 35th of Edward I. reverted to the Crown, for want of heirs male.

Thomas Plantagenet, or de Brotherton, fifth son of Edward I. had this Earldom conferred on him, and he dying in the 12th of Edward III. without issue male, his daughter, Lady Margaret, was made Duchess of Norfolk for life, and died March 24, 1399.

Thomas Mowbray next inherited the Dukedom, but it was afterwards possessed by Richard Plantagenet, (in right of his wife) second son of Edward IV. who died without issue.

NORWICH.

N O R W I C H.

Sir Edward Denny, Baron Denny of Waltham, was created Earl of Norwich by Charles I. 1626, and died without heirs male.

George Goring, Baron Goring, nephew of Sir Edward Denny, was created Earl of Norwich by Charles I. 1644; but his sons failed in issue.

W A L S I N G H A M.

Melesina de Schulenbergh was created Baroness of Walsingham, &c. April 7, 1722, by George I. She married the late Earl of Chesterfield, and died in the year 1780, without issue.

Y A R M O U T H.

Sir Robert Paston, Bart. of Paston and Oxnead, was created Baron Paston and Viscount Yarmouth by Charles II. August 19, 1673, and Earl of Yarmouth July 30, 1679; but his son, who succeeded him, died without male issue.

Amelia Sophia Walmoden was created Baroness and Countess of Yarmouth, for life, by George II. April 4, 1740, and died October 26, 1765.

Besides these, we read of several Barons of this county who had summons to Parliament, whose titles are long since lost.

The title of Baron was called by the Saxons, *Thane*, and, in their language, signified *man*. Feudal Barons were the descendants of those Barons, amongst whom William the Conqueror divided the lordships and manors of this country,

try, to be held of him by Knight's service. Barons of Parliament were summoned to sit by the King's letter, which custom began in the reign of Henry III. and his 49th year, *anno Dni. 1265*, was the epoch of the House of Commons in England. The first Baron, or Peer, by patent, was created by Richard II, in his 2d year, 1379.

The dignity of Earl was given in England long before the Conquest. The first creation of Duke, by Edward III, March 17, 1336; of Viscount, by Henry VI. 1440.

Baronets of Norfolk extinct, with the Date of their Creation.

J A M E S I.

Hobart, of Intwood, May 22, 1611: created Baron Hobart and Earl of Buckinghamshire.

Knevett, of Buckenham, ditto.

Townshend, of Rainham, April 16, 1617: created Baron Lynn and Viscount Townshend.

Clerc, of Ormesby, February 27, 1620.

Yelverton, of Rougham, May 31, 1620.

Barkham, of South-acre, June 28, 1623.

Corbet, of Sprowston, July 4, 1623.

C H A R L E S I.

Drury, of Riddleworth, May 7, 1627.

L'Estrange, of Hunstanton, June 1, 1629.

Holland, of Quidenham, June 15, 1629.

Paaston, of Oxnead, June 8, 1641: created Baron Paaston and Earl of Yarmouth.

Palgrave, of Northwood-Barningham, June 24, 1641.

Hare, of Stow-Bardolph, July 23, 1641.

Potts, of Mannington, August 14, 1641.

Pettus.

Pettus, of Rackheath, September 23, 1641.
 Crane, of Wood-Rising, March 20, 1642.
 Denny, of Gillingham, June 3, 1642.

C H A R L E S II.

Ward, of Bixley, December 19, 1660.
 Bacon, of Gillingham, February 7, 1661.
 Dereham, of West Dereham, June 8, 1661.
 Bickley, of Attleburgh, September 3, 1661.
 Gerhard, of Langford, August 16, 1662.
 Cooke, of Broome-hall, June 29, 1663.
 Gaudy, of West-Harling, July 13, 1663.
 D'Oyley, of Shottisham, July 29, 1663.
 Bateman, of How-hall, August 31, 1664.
 Glean, of Hardwick, March 6, 1665.
 Robinson, of Dereham-Grainge.

G E O R G E I.

Turner, of Warham, April 27, 1727.

*Baronets of Norfolk extant, with the Date
 of their Creation.*

J A M E S I.

Sir Edmund Bacon, of Redgrave, in Suffolk, since of Garboldisham, now of Raveningham, Premier Baronet of England, May 22, 1611.
 Sir John Wodehouse, of Wilberhall, now of Kimberley, ditto.
 Sir Charles Mordaunt, of Little Massingham, now of Walton, in Warwickshire, ditto.
 Sir Henry Mackworth, of Lynn-Regis, now of London, June 4, 1619.

Sir

Sir John Berney, of Park-hall, in Reedham, now of Kirby-Bedon, May 5, 1620.

Sir William Jerningham, of Coffey, October, 1621.

C H A R L E S I.

Sir Edward Astley, of Melton-Constable, January 21, 1641.

Sir William Castleton, of St. Edmund's Bury, Suffolk, now of Hingham, August 9, 1641.

Sir William Kemp, of Gissing, now of Aylsham, March 14, 1642.

C H A R L E S II.

Sir Richard Bedingfield, of Oxburgh, January 2, 1660.

G E O R G E I.

Sir Lambert Blackwell, of Sprowston, July 16, 1718.

G E O R G E II.

Sir Thomas Beauchamp Proctor, of Langley, February 20, 1745.

Sir Harbord Harbord, of Gunton, March 22, 1764.

Sir Martin Browne Folkes, of Hillington-hall, May 3, 1774.

Sir Alexander Leith, of Burgh St. Peter, November 11, 1775.

Sir Henry Peyton, of Narborough, August 24, 1776.

Baronets were first established by James I. 1611, who created ninety in one day, May 22, to raise money. This is the only hereditary title below a Peer, and seems to answer to the feudal Baron of earlier times, when there were also Barons of Parliament, and Barons by patent.

The honor of Knighthood was first instituted in England *anno Dni. 540*; and in the 39th of Henry III. 1255, all that had fifteen pounds a year were *obliged* to be Knighted, or pay a fine to be excused. The title of Knight-ban-neret was first given by Conan, who commanded the Ro-man legions in England, 383, and was much esteemed, but is now obsolete. Knights-simple, or Bachelors, *Eques-tres Aurati*, or *Milites*, do commonly receive that honor for some personal desert. Knights of the Garter are the chief order in England, and were founded by Edward III. 1350: this high honor is seldom conferred but on Princes, Peers, and persons of great eminence. Knights of the Bath were instituted by Henry IV. *anno 1399*, and is now the only military order in England. Knights of Nova-Scotia were established after the charter of that colony was granted by James I. 1621. Some of those Knights are now resident in England.

Of religious orders we find Knights Hospitallers to be the first, about 1092;—Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, in 1113;—and Knights Templars, in 1128. The latter were abolished by Edward II. in 1313, and their estates given to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jeru-salem, who were also suppressed in England by Henry VIII. *anno Dni. 1540*.

*A List of Persons Names who were fit and
qualified to be made Knights of the Royal
Oak*, with the Value of their Estates,
anno Dni. 1660†.*

N O R F O L K.	L.
William Paston, Esq. of Paston, - - -	800
Sir Charles Waldegrave, of Stanninghall, Knt. (afterwards Bart.) - - -	2000
Christopher Bedingfield, Esq. of Wighton, - -	800
Robert Wright, Esq. - - - -	1000
Thomas Wright, Esq. of Kilverstone, - - -	1000
John Windham, Esq. of Felbrigg, - - -	3500
John Coke, Esq. - - - 5	1000
John Nabbes, Esq. - - - -	2000
Captain Henry Steward, - - -	1000
Sir Joseph Payne, of Norwich, Knt. - -	1000
John Hobart, Esq. of Blickling and Intwood, -	1000
John Kendall, Esq. of Thetford, - -	1000
Sir Thomas Meddowe, of Yarmouth, Knt. - -	2000
Christopher Jug, Esq. - - - -	1500
Richard Nixon, Esq. - - - -	1000
Thomas Garrad, Esq. of Longford (afterwards Bart.)	1000
B b 2	Olburne

* From a M. S. of the late Peter Le Neve, Esq. Norroy.

† This order was intended by Charles II, as a reward to several of his followers; and the Knights of it were to wear a silver medal, with a device of the King in the oak, pendant to a ribbon about their necks; but it was thought proper to lay it aside, lest it might create heats and animosities, and open these wounds afresh, which at that time were thought prudent should be concealed, and as no list of them was ever published in Norfolk, we thought such a curiosity would be acceptable.

Total of the persons in England qualified, 687.

Osburne Clarke, Esq.	1000
Valentine Saunders, Esq.	600
John Tasburgh, Esq.	600
Lawr. Oxborow, Esq. of Hackbech-hall, in Emneth,	800

*** The Editor of this GENERAL History of Norfolk had prepared materials for an enquiry into the derivation of the names of towns, and of some principal families:—A glossary, or short explanation of technical and provincial terms of law and custom:—The most remarkable tenures and customs by which lands, &c. are held:—Proverbs, phrases, sayings, local terms, sentences, &c. peculiar to this country:—Eminent men now living, or lately deceased; and some other articles of *useful* knowledge, which he intended to have added to those given in the preceding pages; but he found the impatience of subscribers so great, and the clamor of booksellers so incessant, that he, though very unwillingly, gave up the most pleasing task of affording *public* instruction, to the narrow and mercenary considerations of a few, who pay more regard to *time* than *matter*, and who think a writer has nothing more to do than to *deliver* his work the moment he has made his proposals known; or of some who, by way of Indulgence, only require to be supplied as *readily* as they can peruse it.

— — — — *Quid alat formetque poetam.*

HOR.

Lif

List of the Hundreds, with the Abbreviations used, and the Volume in which each is contained.

VOLUME I.		VOLUME VI.	
Elofield	<i>Blo.</i>	Greenhoe, North	<i>N. Gr.</i>
Brothercros	<i>Bro.</i>	Greenhoe, South	<i>S. Gr.</i>
Clackclose	<i>Clac.</i>	Grimshoe	<i>Grim.</i>
VOLUME II.		VOLUME VII.	
Clavering	<i>Clav.</i>	Happing	<i>Hap.</i>
Depwade	<i>Dep.</i>	Henstead	<i>Henſ.</i>
Dis	<i>Dis.</i>	Holt	<i>Holt</i>
Earsham	<i>Earſ.</i>	Humbleyard	<i>Hum.</i>
VOLUME III.		VOLUME VIII.	
Erpingham, North	<i>N. Erp.</i>	Loddon	<i>Lod.</i>
Erpingham, South	<i>S. Erp.</i>	VOLUME IX.	
Eynsford	<i>Eynſ.</i>	Launditch	<i>Launſ.</i>
VOLUME IV.		Mitford	<i>Mit.</i>
Flegg, East	<i>E. Flegg</i>	Shropham	<i>Shrop.</i>
Flegg, West	<i>W. Flegg</i>	VOLUME X.	
Forehoe	<i>Fore.</i>	Smithdon	<i>Smith.</i>
VOLUME V.		Taverham	<i>Tav.</i>
Freebridge-Lynn	<i>Fr. L.</i>	Tunstead	<i>Tunſ.</i>
Freebridge-Marshland	<i>Fr. M.</i>	Walsham	<i>Walf.</i>
Gallow	<i>Gall.</i>	Wayland	<i>Way.</i>
VOLUME X. City and County of Norwich.			

Index Villaris Norfolcien sis.

GENERAL INDEX.

*Containing an alphabetical LIST of all the TOWNS
in this History, shewing the different HUNDREDS
in which they lie, and the Page of the Hundred
in which each TOWN is to be found.*

N. B. The Market Towns are printed in Capitals, and
such Places as send Members to Parliament are distin-
guished by this Mark*.

A.			
A CLE, <i>Wals.</i>	3	AYLSHAM, <i>S. Erp.</i>	7
Alburgh, <i>Earf.</i>	4	Aylmerton, <i>N. Erp.</i>	14
Alby, <i>S. Erp.</i>	5	B.	
Aldeby, <i>Clav.</i>	3	Babingley, <i>Fr. L.</i>	64
Alborough, <i>N. Erp.</i>	6	Baconthorpe, <i>S. Erp.</i>	27
Alderford, <i>Eyns.</i>	4	Bacton, <i>Tuns.</i>	7
Althorpe, <i>Gall.</i>	29	Bagthorpe, <i>Gall.</i>	3
Anmer, <i>Fr. L.</i>	57	Bale, or Bathley, <i>Holt</i>	4
Appleton, <i>Fr. L.</i>	60	Banham, <i>Guilt.</i>	6
Antingham, <i>N. Erp.</i>	9	Banningham, <i>S. Erp.</i>	57
Arminghall, <i>Hens.</i>	4	Barford, <i>Fore.</i>	8
Ashby, <i>W. Flegg</i>	5	Barmer, <i>Gall.</i>	4
Ashby, <i>Lod.</i>	4	Barney, <i>N. Gr.</i>	2
Ashill, <i>Way.</i>	4	Barnham Broome, <i>Fore.</i>	13
Ashmanhaugh, <i>Tuns.</i>	5	Barningham (Little) <i>S. Erp.</i>	
Ashwelthorpe, <i>Dep.</i>	4	Barningham (Northwood) <i>N.</i>	54
Ashwicken, <i>Fr. L.</i>	62	<i>Erp.</i>	17
Astacton, <i>Dep.</i>	27	Barningham (Town) <i>N. Erp.</i>	
ATTLEBOROUGH, <i>Shrop.</i>	5	Barton Bendish, <i>Clac.</i>	21
Attlebridge, <i>Tav.</i>	4	Barton	8

Barton Turf, <i>Tuns.</i>	20	Eracon Ash, <i>Hum.</i>	4
Barwick, <i>Smith.</i>	5	Bradenham (East) <i>S. Gr.</i>	6
Baisham (East) <i>Gall.</i>	5	Bradenham (West) <i>S. Gr.</i>	11
Baisham (North) <i>Gall.</i>	14	Bradsfield, <i>Tuns.</i>	28
Baisham (West) <i>Gall.</i>	18	Bradiston, <i>Blo.</i>	6
Bassingham, <i>N. Erp.</i>	26	Bramerton, <i>Hens.</i>	19
Bawwick, <i>W. Flegg</i>	35	Brampton, <i>S. Erp.</i>	101
Bawburgh, <i>Fore.</i>	16	Brancafter, <i>Smith.</i>	11
Bawdeswell, <i>Eyns.</i>	5	Brandiston, <i>Eyns.</i>	13
Bawsey, <i>Fr. L.</i>	66	Brandon Little, <i>Fore.</i>	31
Bayfield, <i>Holt</i>	6	Eccles, <i>Way.</i>	10
Beckham (East) <i>N. Erp.</i>	28	Erettenham, <i>Sbrop.</i>	5
Beckham (West) <i>S. Erp.</i>	57	Bridgeham, <i>Sbrop.</i>	54
Bedingham, <i>Lod.</i>	6	Briningham, <i>Holt</i>	19
Beechamwell, <i>Clac.</i>	25	Brinton, <i>Holt</i>	21
Beeston, <i>Laun.</i>	8	Brisley, <i>Laun.</i>	18
Beeston, <i>Tav.</i>	9	Bristingham, <i>Diss.</i>	4
Beeston St. Laur. <i>Tuns.</i>	25	Briston, <i>Holt</i>	22
Beeston Regis, <i>N. Erp.</i>	31	Brockdish, <i>Earf.</i>	14
Beetley, <i>Laun.</i>	11	Broomhill, <i>Grim.</i>	117
Beighton, <i>Wals.</i>	9	Broomthorpe, <i>Gall.</i>	20
Belaugh, <i>S. Erp.</i>	60	Broome, <i>Lod.</i>	11
Belaugh, <i>Eyns.</i>	5	Broomholm, <i>Tuns.</i>	12
Bergh Apton, <i>Clav.</i>	8	Brooke, <i>Clav.</i>	15
Berthorpe, <i>Sbrop.</i>	42	Brundall, <i>Blo.</i>	9
Bexwell, <i>Clac.</i>	37	Brunstead, <i>Hap.</i>	4
Billingford <i>Earf.</i>	9	Buckenham, <i>Blo.</i>	11
Billingford, <i>Eyns.</i>	12	BUCKENHAM (New) <i>Sbrop.</i>	
Billockby, <i>W. Flegg</i>	8		59
Bilney (East) <i>Laun.</i>	13	Buckenham (Old) <i>Sbrop.</i>	66
Bilney (West) <i>Fr. L.</i>	68	Euckenham Tofts, <i>Grim.</i>	7
Binham, <i>N. Gr.</i>	5	Bunwel, <i>Dep.</i>	32
Bintry, <i>Eyns.</i>	144	Burlingham (North) <i>Blo.</i>	14
Bircham (Great) <i>Smith.</i>	6	Burlingham (South) <i>Blo.</i>	17
Bircham Newton, <i>Smith.</i>	9	Burgh, <i>Holt</i>	24
Bircham Tofts, <i>Smith.</i>	10	Burgh St. Peter, <i>Clav.</i>	93
Bittering, <i>Laun.</i>	15	Burgh, <i>W. Flegg</i>	10
Bixley, <i>Hens.</i>	9	Burgh, <i>S. Erp.</i>	112
Blakeney, <i>Holt</i>	9	Burnham Depdale, <i>Bro.</i>	3
Blickling, <i>S. Erp.</i>	63	Burnham Norton, <i>Bro.</i>	5
Elofield, <i>Blo.</i>	4	Burnham Overy, <i>Bro.</i>	6
Elo-Norton, <i>Guilt.</i>	20	Burnham Thorpe, <i>Bro.</i>	12
Bodham, <i>Holt</i>	17	Burnham Ulph, and Sutton, <i>Bro.</i>	14
Bodney, <i>S. Gr.</i>	5	Burnham Weltgate, <i>Bro.</i>	15
Eooton, <i>S. Erp.</i>	95	Eurton, <i>Diss.</i>	23
Boughton, <i>Clac.</i>	44		Buxton,
Bowthorpe, <i>Fore.</i>	24		

Buxton, S. <i>Erp.</i>			
C.	115	Cromer, N. <i>Erp.</i>	36
Caistor, E. <i>Flegg</i>	24	Croftwick, <i>Tav.</i>	15
Caistor, <i>Hens.</i>	21	Croftwick, <i>Tuns.</i>	30
Caldecote, S. <i>Gr.</i>	15	Crownthorpe, <i>Fore.</i>	63
Calthorpe, S. <i>Erp.</i>	127	Croxtion, <i>Grim.</i>	20
Cantley, <i>Blo.</i>	18	Croxtion, <i>Gall.</i>	31
Carbrooke, <i>Way.</i>	15	D.	
Carleton, <i>Lod.</i>	16	Darfin, ham, <i>Fr. L.</i>	119
Carleton (East) <i>Hum.</i>	9	Dalling, Field, N. <i>Gr.</i>	11
Carleton Forehoe, <i>Fore.</i>	35	Dalling, Wood, <i>Eyns.</i>	128
Carleton Rode, <i>Dep.</i>	41	Deepham, <i>Fere.</i>	66
Castle Acre, <i>Fr. L.</i>	69	Denver, <i>Clac.</i>	54
*Castle Rising, <i>Fr. L.</i>	88	Denton, <i>Earf.</i>	26
Caston, <i>Way.</i>	31	DEREHAM, East, <i>Mit.</i>	9
Catfield, <i>Hap.</i>	6	Dereham, West, <i>Clac.</i>	61
Catton, <i>Tav.</i>	12	Dickleburgh, <i>Diss</i>	23
Cawston, S. <i>Erp.</i>	137	Dilham, <i>Tuns.</i>	34
Chedgrave, <i>Lod.</i>	19	Dillington, <i>Laun.</i>	29
Chosley, <i>Smith.</i>	75	Diss, <i>Diss</i>	42
Claxton, <i>Lod.</i>	22	Ditchingham, <i>Lod.</i>	33
Clenchwarton, <i>Fr. M.</i>	294	Docking, <i>Smith.</i>	19
Cley, <i>Holt</i>	25	Doughton, <i>Gall.</i>	21
Clipperby, W. <i>Flegg</i>	15	DOWNHAM, <i>Clac.</i>	80
Cockley Cley, S. <i>Gr.</i>	17	Drayton, <i>Tav.</i>	17
Cockthorpe, N. <i>Gr.</i>	8	Dudlington, S. <i>Gr.</i>	52
Colby, S. <i>Erp.</i>	154	Dunham, Great, <i>Laun.</i>	30
Colkirk, <i>Laun.</i>	21	Dunham, Little, <i>Laun.</i>	36
Colney, <i>Hum.</i>	15	Dunston, <i>Hum.</i>	26
Coltishall, S. <i>Erp.</i>	159	Dunton, <i>Gall.</i>	21
Colton, <i>Fore.</i>	38	E.	
Colveston, <i>Grim.</i>	10	Earsham, <i>Earf.</i>	36
Congham, <i>Fr. L.</i>	114	Easton, <i>Fore.</i>	73
Corpusfey, S. <i>Erp.</i>	166	Eccles, <i>Shrop.</i>	87
Cossey, <i>Fore.</i>	41	Eccles, <i>Hap.</i>	8
Coston, <i>Fore.</i>	60	Edgefield, <i>Holt</i>	31
Cranwich, <i>Grim.</i>	13	Edingthorpe, <i>Tuns.</i>	38
Cranworth, <i>Mit.</i>	6	Egmere, N. <i>Gr.</i>	14
Creak (North) <i>Bro.</i>	19	Ellingham, <i>Clav.</i>	19
Creak (South) <i>Bro.</i>	23	Ellingham, Great, <i>Shrop.</i>	94
Cressingham, Great, S. <i>Gr.</i>	20	Ellingham, Little, <i>Way.</i>	35
Cressingham, Little, S. <i>Gr.</i>	24	Elmham, North, <i>Laun.</i>	39
Crimplesham, <i>Clac.</i>	48	Elsing, <i>Eyns.</i>	16
Cringleford, <i>Hum.</i>	19	Emneth, <i>Fr. M.</i>	296
		Erpingham, S. <i>Erp.</i>	168
		F.	
		FAKENHAM, <i>Gall.</i>	24
		Felbrigg,	

Felbrigg, <i>N. Erp.</i>	44	Godwick, <i>Laun.</i>	67
Felmingham, <i>Tuns.</i>	40	Gooderstone, <i>S. Gr.</i>	32
Felthorpe, <i>Tav.</i>	23	Gresham, <i>N. Erp.</i>	60
Feltwell, <i>Grim.</i>	26	Gressenhall, <i>Laun.</i>	69
Fersfield, <i>Diss.</i>	89	Grimston, <i>Fr. L.</i>	145
Filby, <i>E. Flegg</i>	27	Griston, <i>Way.</i>	39
Fincham, <i>Clac.</i>	87	Guestwick, <i>Eyns.</i>	38
Fishley, <i>Wals.</i>	11	Guisl, <i>Eyns.</i>	32
Flitcham, <i>Fr. L.</i>	129	Gunthorpe, <i>Holt</i>	40
Flordon, <i>Hum.</i>	31	Gunton, <i>N. Erp.</i>	63
Fodderston, <i>Clac.</i>	109	H	
Fordham, <i>Clac.</i>	112	Hackford, <i>Fore.</i>	82
Fornacet St. Mary, <i>Dep.</i>	48	Hackford, <i>Eyns.</i>	42
Fornacet St. Peter, <i>Dep.</i>	48	Hadiscoe, <i>Clav.</i>	33
Fouldon, <i>S. Gr.</i>	28	Hadiscoe Thorpe, <i>Clav.</i>	84
Foulsham, <i>Eyns.</i>	20	Hales, <i>Clav.</i>	38
Foxley, <i>Eyns.</i>	27	Halvergate, <i>Wals.</i>	16
Framlingham Earl, <i>Hens.</i>	31	Hanwerth, <i>N. Erp.</i>	68
Framlingham Pigot, <i>Hens.</i>		Happisburgh, <i>Hap.</i>	13
	33	Hatton, <i>Dep.</i>	102
Franham, Great, <i>Laun.</i>	22	Hardingham, <i>Mit.</i>	32
Franham, Little, <i>Laun.</i>	22	Hardley, <i>Lod.</i>	39
Freethorpe, <i>Blo.</i>	21	Hardwick, <i>Dep.</i>	104
Frenze, <i>Diss.</i>	119	Hargham, <i>Sbrop.</i>	99
Frettenham, <i>Tav.</i>	24	HARLESTON, <i>Earf.</i>	82
Fring, <i>Smith.</i>	25	HARLING, East, <i>Guilt.</i>	54
Fritton, <i>Dep.</i>	94	Harling, West, <i>Guilt.</i>	70
Fulmondefton, <i>Gall.</i>	31	Harpley, <i>Fr. L.</i>	157
Fundenhall, <i>Dep.</i>	97	Hasingham, <i>Blo.</i>	23
G.		Hauteboys, Great, <i>S. Erp.</i>	
Garboldisham, <i>Guilt.</i>	27		184
Garveston, <i>Mit.</i>	29	Hauteboys, Little, <i>S. Erp.</i>	
Gasthorpe, <i>Guilt.</i>	49		191
Gately, <i>Laun.</i>	63	Hayford, <i>Tav.</i>	30
Gatefend, <i>Gall.</i>	137	Heacham, <i>Smith.</i>	27
Gayton, <i>Fr. L.</i>	137	Heckingham, <i>Clav.</i>	43
Gayton Thorpe, <i>Fr. L.</i>	140	Hedenham, <i>Lod.</i>	43
Gaywood, <i>Fr. L.</i>	142	Helhoughton, <i>Gall.</i>	34
Geldestone, <i>Clav.</i>	21	Helleston, <i>Tav.</i>	33
Gillingham All Saints, <i>Clav.</i>		Hellington, <i>Lod.</i>	49
	22	Hemesby, <i>W. Flegg</i>	19
Gillingham St. Mary, <i>Clav.</i>	22	Hemlington, <i>Wals.</i>	17
Gimmingham, <i>N. Erp.</i>	57	Hempnall, <i>Dep.</i>	109
Gisling, <i>Diss.</i>	124	Hempstead, <i>Holt</i>	43
Glanford, <i>Holt</i>	39	Hempton, <i>Gall.</i>	36
		Hemstead, <i>Hap.</i>	19

Herringby, <i>E. Flegg</i>	33	Ingoldesthorpe, <i>Smith.</i>	65
Hethel, <i>Hum.</i>	33	Ingworth, <i>S. Erp.</i>	213
Hethererset, <i>Hum.</i>	47	Intwood, <i>Hum.</i>	57
Hevingham, <i>S. Erp.</i>	192	Irlstead, <i>Tuns.</i>	64
Heveringland, <i>Eyns.</i>	44	Iringland <i>S. Erp.</i>	217
Heydon, <i>S. Erp.</i>	201	Islington, <i>Fr. M.</i>	300
Hickling, <i>Hap.</i>	22	Itteringham, <i>S. Erp.</i>	224
Hilborough, <i>S. Gr.</i>	34	K.	
Hilgay, <i>Clac.</i>	116	Kelling, <i>Holt</i>	58
Hillington, <i>Fr. L.</i>	161	Kempston, <i>Laun.</i>	87
Hindolveston, <i>Eyns.</i>	56	Kenninghall, <i>Guilt.</i>	91
Hindringham, <i>N. Gr.</i>	15	Kerdistone, <i>Eyns.</i>	57
HINGHAM, <i>Fore.</i>	82	Keswick, <i>Hum.</i>	61
Hockering <i>Mit.</i>	38	Ketteringham, <i>Hum.</i>	62
Hockham, <i>Shrop.</i>	104	Kettlestone, <i>Gall.</i>	85
Hockwold, <i>Grim.</i>	41	Kilverstone, <i>Shrop.</i>	114
Hoe, <i>Laun.</i>	81	Kimberley, <i>Fore.</i>	117
Holkham, <i>N. Gr.</i>	18	Kirby Bedon, <i>Henf.</i>	36
Holme, <i>Clac.</i>	155	Kirby Cane, <i>Clav.</i>	51
Holm Hale, <i>S. Gr.</i>	41	Kirstead, <i>Lod.</i>	52
Holme next the Sea, <i>Smith.</i>	31	Knapton, <i>N. Erp.</i>	72
HOLT, <i>Holt</i>	45	L.	
Holveston, <i>Henf.</i>	34	Lammas, <i>S. Erp.</i>	229
Honing, <i>Tuns.</i>	45	Langford, <i>S. Gr.</i>	48
Honingham, <i>Fore.</i>	108	Langham, <i>Holt</i>	64
Horning, <i>Tuns.</i>	49	Langley, <i>Lod.</i>	56
Horningtoft, <i>Laun.</i>	84	Langmere, <i>Earf.</i>	28*
Horsey, <i>Hap.</i>	30	Larling, <i>Shrop.</i>	121
Horsford, <i>Tav.</i>	41	Lessingham, <i>Hap.</i>	45
Horsham St. Faith, <i>Tav.</i>	47	Letheringset, <i>Holt</i>	67
Horstead, <i>Tav.</i>	54	Letton, <i>Mit.</i>	42
Hoveton St. John, <i>Tuns.</i>	58	Lexham, East, <i>Laun.</i>	90
Hoveton St. Peter, <i>Tuns.</i>	63	Lexham, West, <i>Laun.</i>	93
Houghton, <i>Gall.</i>	38	Leziate, <i>Fr. L.</i>	62
Houghton, <i>S. Gr.</i>	43	Limpenhoe, <i>Blo.</i>	24
Houghton, <i>N. Gr.</i>	60	Lingwood, <i>Blo.</i>	26
Howe, <i>Clav.</i>	48	Litcham, <i>Laun.</i>	99
Hunstanton, <i>Smith.</i>	33	LODDON, <i>Lod.</i>	64
Hunworth, <i>Holt</i>	55	Longham, <i>Laun.</i>	106
I.		Lopham, North, <i>Guilt.</i>	107
Ickburgh, <i>Grim.</i>	55	Lopham, South, <i>Guilt.</i>	116
Illington, <i>Shrop.</i>	111	Ludham, <i>Hap.</i>	46
Ingham, <i>Hap.</i>	33	Lynford, <i>Grim.</i>	65
		Lyng, <i>Eyns.</i>	60

*LYNN-

* See Dickleburgh, page 28, Dis hundred.

*LYNN-REGIS, <i>Fr. L.</i>	167	Needham, <i>Earf.</i>	39
Lynn, South, <i>Fr. L.</i>	266	Newton St. Faith's, <i>Tav.</i>	53
Lynn, West, <i>Fr. M.</i>	307	Newton, West, <i>Fr. L.</i>	254
Lynn, North, <i>Fr. M.</i>	306	Newton, East, <i>S. Gr.</i>	76
M.		Newton Flotman, <i>Hum.</i>	93
Mannington, <i>S. Erp.</i>	233	Northwold, <i>Grim.</i>	84
Marham, <i>Clac.</i>	122	Norton Pudding, <i>Gall.</i>	89
Marlingford, <i>Fore.</i>	145	Norton Subcorfe, <i>Clav.</i>	62
Marsham, <i>S. Erp.</i>	239	O.	
Martham, <i>W. Flegg</i>	25	Oby, <i>W. Flegg</i>	31
Massingham, Great, <i>Fr. L.</i>	226	Ormesby St. Marg. <i>E. Flegg</i>	41
Massingham, Little, <i>Fr. L.</i>	237	Ormesby St. Michael, <i>E. Flegg</i>	
Matlask, <i>N. Erp.</i>	75		41
Mattishall, <i>Mit.</i>	46	Ostundeston, or Scole, <i>Disf.</i>	142
Mattishall Bergh, <i>Mit.</i>	52	Overstrand, <i>N. Erp.</i>	86
Mautby, <i>E. Flegg</i>	37	Ovington, <i>Way.</i>	58
Melton, Great, <i>Hum.</i>	72	Oulton, <i>S. Erp.</i>	243
Melton, Little, <i>Hum.</i>	80	Outwell, <i>Clac.</i>	210
Melton Constable, <i>Holt</i>	70	Oxborough, <i>S. Gr.</i>	77
Mendham, <i>Earf.</i>	39	Oxnead, <i>S. Erp.</i>	247
Merkshall, <i>Hum.</i>	85	Owick, <i>Laun.</i>	124
Merton, <i>Way.</i>	45	P.	
Methwold, <i>Grim.</i>	68	Palgrave, <i>S. Gr.</i>	121
Metton, <i>N. Erp.</i>	77	Palling, <i>Hap.</i>	50
Middleton, <i>Fr. L.</i>	242	Panxford, <i>Walf.</i>	20
Mileham, <i>Laun.</i>	108	Pafton, <i>Tuns.</i>	70
Mintlyn, <i>Fr. L.</i>	251	Patesley, <i>Laun.</i>	126
Morley St. Botolph, <i>Fore.</i>	149	Pensthorpe, <i>Gall.</i>	88
Morley St. Peter, <i>Fore.</i>	149	Pentney, <i>Fr. L.</i>	255
Morston, <i>Holt</i>	90	Pickenham, North, <i>S. Gr.</i>	105
Morton, <i>Eynf.</i>	64	Pickenham, South, <i>S. Gr.</i>	106
Moulton, <i>Walf.</i>	18	Plumstead, <i>N. Erp.</i>	90
Moulton All Saints, <i>Dep.</i>	119	Plumstead, Great, <i>Blo.</i>	27
Moulton St. Michael, <i>Dep.</i>	116	Plumstead, Little, <i>Blo.</i>	30
Mourningthorpe, <i>Dep.</i>	121	Poringland, Great, <i>Henf.</i>	43
Mulbarton, <i>Hum.</i>	88	Poringland, Little, <i>Henf.</i>	47
Mundesley, <i>N. Erp.</i>	80	Postwick, <i>Blo.</i>	39
Mundford, <i>Grim.</i>	80	Potter Heigham, <i>Hap.</i>	17
Mundham, <i>Loc.</i>	74	Pulham St. Mary, <i>Earf.</i>	55
N.		Pulham St. Mary Mag. <i>Earf.</i>	55
Narborough, <i>S. Gr.</i>	52	Q	
Narford, <i>S. Gr.</i>	59	Quarles, <i>N. Gr.</i>	62
Neatishead, <i>Tuns.</i>	67	Quidenham, <i>Guith.</i>	120
Necton, <i>S. Gr.</i>	73		

R.		
Rackheath, <i>Tav.</i>	58	Salthouse, <i>Holt</i> 92
Ranworth, <i>Walf.</i>	22	Sandringham, <i>Fr. L.</i> 261
Raveningham, <i>Clav.</i>	68	Santon, <i>Grim.</i> 95
Rainham, East, <i>Gall.</i>	91	Saxlingham, <i>Holt</i> 96
Rainham, West, <i>Gall.</i>	91	Saxlingham Nethergate, <i>Hens.</i>
Rainham, South, <i>Gall.</i>	91	53
Redenhall, <i>Earf.</i>	63	Saxlingham Thorpe, <i>Hens.</i> 53
Reedham, <i>Walf.</i>	27	Saxthorpe, <i>S. Erp.</i> 275
REEPHAM, <i>Eynf.</i>	66	Scarning, <i>Laun.</i> 140
Repps, <i>W. Flegg</i>	35	Scone, <i>Diss</i> 140
Repps, North, <i>N. Erp.</i>	82	Sco-Ruston, <i>Tunf.</i> 88
Repps, South, <i>N. Erp.</i>	82	Scottow, <i>S. Erp.</i> 281
Reymerston, <i>Mit.</i>	54	Scoulton <i>Way.</i> 75
Riddleworth, <i>Guilt.</i>	134	Scrathy, <i>E. Flegg</i> 54
Ridlington, <i>Tunf.</i>	74	Sculthorpe, <i>Gall.</i> 126
Ringland, <i>Eynf.</i>	70	Sedgeford, <i>Smith.</i> 76
Ringstead, <i>Smith.</i>	72	Seething, <i>Led.</i> 79
Rockland, <i>Hens.</i>	50	Setchy, <i>Fr. L.</i> 264
Rockland All Sts, <i>Shrop.</i>	125	Sharrington, <i>Holt</i> 100
Rockland St. Andr, <i>Shrop.</i>	125	Shelfanger, <i>Diss</i> 156
Rockland St. Peter, <i>Way.</i>	2	Shelton, <i>Dep.</i> 129
Rollesby, <i>W. Flegg</i>	39	Sherford, <i>Gall.</i> 131
Roudham, <i>Shrop.</i>	133	Sheringham, Upper, <i>N. Erp.</i>
Rougham, <i>Laun.</i>	129	97
Roughton, <i>N. Erp.</i>	91	Sheringham, Lower, <i>N. Erp.</i>
Roxham, <i>Clac.</i>	148	97
Roydon, <i>Diss</i>	148	Shernbourne, <i>Smith.</i> 79
Roydon, <i>Fr. L.</i>	257	Shimpling, <i>Diss</i> 166
Rudham, East, <i>Gall.</i>	119	Shingham, <i>Clac.</i> 186
Rudham, West, <i>Gall.</i>	119	Shipham, <i>Mit.</i> 59
Runton Holme, <i>Clac.</i>	157	Shotesham All Sts, <i>Hens.</i> 60
Runton, North, <i>Fr. L.</i>	260	Shotesham St. Mary, <i>Hens.</i> 79
Runham, <i>E. Flegg</i>	49	Shotesham St. Martin, <i>Hens.</i>
Runhall, <i>Fore</i>	156	79
Runton, <i>N. Erp.</i>	95	Shouldham, <i>Clac.</i> 159
Rushall, <i>Earf.</i>	86	Shouldham Thorpe, <i>Clac.</i> 174
Rushford, <i>Guilt.</i>	145	Shropham, <i>Shrop.</i> 136
Ruston, East, <i>Hap.</i>	54	Sifland, <i>Led.</i> 84
Rvburgh, Great, <i>Gall.</i>	122	Skeyton, <i>S. Erp.</i> 291
Ryburgh, Little, <i>Gall.</i>	122	Sloley, <i>Tunf.</i> 76
Ryton, <i>Clac.</i>	143	Smalburgh, <i>Tunf.</i> 79
S.		Snarehill, <i>Guilt.</i> 145
Saham Tony, <i>Way.</i>	68	Sneterton, <i>Shrop.</i> 143
Sall, <i>Eynf.</i>	72	Snettisham, <i>Smith.</i> 88
Salhouse, <i>Tav.</i>	64	Snoring, Great, <i>N. Gr.</i> 62
		Snoring, Little, <i>Gall.</i> 132
		Somerton,

Somerton, East, <i>W. Flegg</i>	44	T.	
Somerton, West, <i>W. Flegg</i>	46	Tacolneston, <i>Dep.</i>	159
Southacre, <i>S. Gr.</i>	110	Talburgh, <i>Dep.</i>	166
Southberg, <i>Mit.</i>	67	Tatterford, <i>Gall.</i>	136
Southrey, <i>Clac.</i>	179	Tatterfel, <i>Gall.</i>	137
Southwood, <i>Blo.</i>	45	Taverham, <i>Tav.</i>	80
Sparham, <i>Eyns.</i>	83	Terrington St. John, <i>Fr. M.</i>	
Spixworth, <i>Tav.</i>	65		309
Sporle, <i>S. Gr.</i>	118	Terrington St. Clement <i>Fr. M.</i>	
Sprowston, <i>Tav.</i>	71		316
Stalham, <i>Hap.</i>	59	Testerton, <i>Gal.</i>	139
Stanfield, <i>Laun.</i>	149	Tharston, <i>Dep.</i>	173
Stanford, <i>Grim.</i>	99	Thelveton, <i>Disf.</i>	173
Stanhoe, <i>Smith.</i>	113	Themiltorpe, <i>Eyns.</i>	92
Stanninghall, <i>Tav.</i>	77	*THETFORD, <i>Shrop.</i>	153
Starston, <i>Earf.</i>	90	Thurne, <i>W. Flegg</i>	50
Stibbard, <i>Gall.</i>	133	Thompson, <i>Way.</i>	84
Stif key, <i>N. Gr.</i>	66	Thornage, <i>Holt</i>	108
Stockton, <i>Clav.</i>	79	Thornham, <i>Smith.</i>	115
Stody, <i>Holt</i>	103	Thorpe Abbots, <i>Earf.</i>	95
Stoke Holy Crofts, <i>Henf.</i>	83	Thorpe, <i>Disf.</i>	181
Stoke Ferry, <i>Clac.</i>	182	Thorpe, <i>Clav.</i>	84
Stokesby, <i>E. Flegg</i>	58	Thorpe, <i>Blo.</i>	50
Stow Bardolph, <i>Clac.</i>	189	Thorpe Market, <i>N. Erp.</i>	111
Stow Bedon, <i>Way.</i>	80	Threton, <i>Way.</i>	93
Stradset, <i>Clac.</i>	202	Thrigby, <i>E. Flegg</i>	61
Stratton St. Michael, <i>Dep.</i>	152	Thurgarton, <i>N. Erp.</i>	115
Stratton St. Mary, <i>Dep.</i>	139	Thurlton, <i>Clav.</i>	87
Stratton Strawles, <i>S. Erp</i>	294	Thurning, <i>Eyns.</i>	93
Strumpshaw, <i>Blo.</i>	46	Thursford, <i>N. Gr.</i>	73
Sturston, <i>Grim.</i>	105	Thurton, <i>Ld.</i>	88
Suffield, <i>N. Erp.</i>	103	Thuxton, <i>Mit.</i>	70
Surlingham, <i>Henf.</i>	93	Thwayte, <i>Ld.</i>	86
Sustead, <i>N. Erp.</i>	106	Thwayte, <i>S. Erp.</i>	305
Sutton, <i>Hap.</i>	64	Tibbenham, <i>Dep.</i>	178
SWAFFHAM, <i>S. Gr.</i>	123	Tilney St. Laurence, <i>Fr. M.</i>	
Swafield, <i>Tunf.</i>	83		317
Swainsthorpe, <i>Hum.</i>	104	Tilney All Saints, <i>Fr. M.</i>	317
Swannington, <i>Eyns.</i>	90	Tilney with Irlington, <i>Fr. M.</i>	
Swanton Abbots, <i>S. Erp.</i>	303		300
Swanton Morley, <i>Laun.</i>	150	Titchwell, <i>Smith.</i>	119
Swanton Novers, <i>Holt</i>	106	Tittleshall, <i>Laun.</i>	158
Swardeston, <i>Hum.</i>	102	Tivetshall St. Margaret, <i>Disf.</i>	
Syderstone, <i>Gall.</i>	134		170
Syderstrand, <i>N. Erp.</i>	109	Tivetshall St. Mary, <i>Disf.</i>	170
		Toft,	

Toft, West, <i>Grim.</i>	108	Weeting, <i>cum</i> Broomhill, <i>Grim.</i>	113
Toft Monks, <i>Clav.</i>	90	Welborne, <i>Fore.</i>	162
Toftrees, <i>Gall.</i>	141	Wellingham, <i>Laun.</i>	179
Topcroft, <i>Ld.</i>	91	Wellney, <i>Clac.</i>	259
Tottenham, <i>Clac.</i>	209	WELLS, <i>N. Gr.</i>	104
Tottenham, <i>Way.</i>	97	Wendling, <i>Laun.</i>	183
Trimingham, <i>N. Erp.</i>	118	Werham, <i>Clac.</i>	260
Trowse Newton, <i>Henf.</i>	101	Westacre, <i>Fr. L.</i>	274
Trunch, <i>N. Erp.</i>	119	Westbriggs, <i>Clac.</i>	249
Tuddenham, East, <i>Mit.</i>	73	Westfield, <i>Mit.</i>	88
Tuddenham, North, <i>Mit.</i>	81	Westton, <i>Eynf.</i>	98
Tunstall, <i>Walf.</i>	36	Westwick, <i>Tunf.</i>	100
Tunstead, <i>Tunf.</i>	85	Whetacre, <i>Clav.</i>	93
Tunnington, <i>S. Erp.</i>	308	Whinbergh, <i>Mit.</i>	89
Twiford, <i>Eynf.</i>	95	Whissonset, <i>Laun.</i>	191
U		Whitwell, <i>Eynf.</i>	102
Upton, <i>Walf.</i>	48	Wickhampton, <i>Walf.</i>	47
Upwell, <i>Clac.</i>	210	Wicklewood, <i>Fore.</i>	162
W		Wickmere, <i>S. Erp.</i>	312
Waborne, <i>Holt</i>	110	Wiggenhall St. Mary, <i>Fr. M.</i>	357
Wacton All Saints, <i>Dep.</i>	192	Wiggenhall St. Mary Mag. <i>Fr. M.</i>	363
Wacton St. Mary, <i>Dep.</i>	190	Wiggenhall St. Germain, <i>Fr.</i> <i>M.</i>	353
Walcote, <i>Hap.</i>	67	Wiggenhall St. Ptr. <i>Fr. M.</i>	367
Wallington, with Thorpland, <i>Clac.</i>	238	Wighton, <i>N. Gr.</i>	109
Walpole St. Peter, <i>Fr. M.</i>	333	Wilby, <i>Shrop.</i>	201
Walpole St. Andrew, <i>Fr. M.</i>	324	Wilton, <i>Grim.</i>	52
WALSHAM, North, <i>Tunf.</i>	90	Wimbottisham, <i>Clac.</i>	273
Walsham, South, <i>Walf.</i>	43	Winch, East, <i>Fr. L.</i>	283
Walsingham, Old, <i>N. Gr.</i>	74	Winch, West, <i>Fr. L.</i>	288
WALSINGHAM, Little, <i>N.</i> <i>Gr.</i>	74	Winfarthing, <i>Dis.</i>	182
Walsoken, <i>Fr. M.</i>	338	Winterton, <i>W. Flegg</i>	52
Walton, East, <i>Fr. L.</i>	269	Witchingham, Great, <i>Eynf.</i>	107
Walton, West, <i>Fr. M.</i>	346	Witchingham, Little, <i>Eynf.</i>	107
Warham, <i>N. Gr.</i>	96	Wittingham, <i>Henf.</i>	106
Waterden, <i>Bro.</i>	25	Witton, <i>Blo.</i>	58
Watlington, <i>Clac.</i>	245	Witton, <i>Tunf.</i>	104
WATTON, <i>Way.</i>	103	Wiveton, <i>Holt</i>	117
Waxham, <i>Hap.</i>	71	Wolferton, <i>Fr. L.</i>	289
Weafenham St. Peter, <i>Laun.</i>	170	Wolterton, <i>S. Erp.</i>	320
Weafenham All Saints, <i>Laun.</i>	170	Woodbastwick, <i>Walf.</i>	49
		Woodnorton,	

Woodnorton, <i>Eyns.</i>	140	Wrenningham, <i>Hum.</i>	116
Woodrifing, <i>Mit.</i>	92	Wretham, <i>East, Shrop.</i>	199
Woodton, <i>Lod.</i>	97	Wretham, <i>West, Shrop.</i>	195
Wootton, North, <i>Fr. L.</i>	291	Wretton, <i>Clac.</i>	293
Wootton, South, <i>Fr. L.</i>	292	Wroxham, <i>Tav.</i>	88
Wormegay, <i>Clac.</i>	278	WYMONDHAM, <i>Forc.</i>	171
Worstead, <i>Tuns.</i>	199	Y.	
Worthing, <i>Laun.</i>	197	*YARMOUTH, <i>E. Flegg</i>	64
Wortwell, <i>Earf.</i>	82	Yaxham, <i>Mit.</i>	99
Wramplingham, <i>Forc.</i>	168	Yelverton, <i>Hens.</i>	109

Directions for placing the Cuts.

VOLUME I.

Map of Norfolk—at the beginning of the *General History.*

V O L. II.

Tacolneston Hall,— <i>Depwade</i>	—	—	PAGE 161
Scole Inn Sign,— <i>Diss</i>	—	—	144
Earsham Hall,— <i>Earsham</i>	—	—	39
Redenhall Church, Ditto	—	—	71

V O L. III.

Barningham Hall,— <i>North Erpingham</i>	—	—	24
View of Cromer, Ditto	—	—	36
Felbrigg Hall, Ditto	—	—	55
Gunton Church, Ditto	—	—	66
Hanworth Hall, Ditto	—	—	72
View of Beeston, &c. from Sheringham,—Ditto	—	—	100
Baconsthorpe Hall,— <i>South Erpingham</i> ,	—	—	49
Wickling Hall, Ditto	—	—	90
Heydon, Ditto	—	—	210
Irmingland Hall, Ditto	—	—	224
Wolterton Hall, Ditto	—	—	325
Wood-Dalling,— <i>Eynsford</i>	—	—	135

V O L. IV.

Castor Castle,— <i>East Flegg</i>	—	—	18
View of Yarmouth, Ditto	—	—	64
Cossey Hall,— <i>Forehoe</i>	—	—	55
Easton Lodge, Ditto	—	—	80
Wymondham Abbey, Ditto	—	—	20

V O L. V.

Map of the Fens,— <i>Freebridge Hundred and Half</i>	—	—	17
Cafile	—	—	

	PAGE
Castle Acre Castle, — <i>Freebridge</i>	55
— <i>Monastery</i> , Ditto	83
Rising Castle, Ditto	103
View of Lynn-regis, Ditto	167
Middleton Castle, Ditto	242
Head of Sir Robert Walpole, — <i>Gallow</i>	45
Houghton House, Ditto	49
V O L. VI.	
Binham Priory, — <i>North Greenhoe</i>	7
Holkham Hall, Ditto	30
Walsingham Priory, Ditto	88
— <i>Friary</i> , Ditto	94
Hilborowe Park-house, — <i>South Greenhoe</i>	35
Head of Sir Henry Spelman, Ditto	35
V O L. VII.	
Eixley Hall, — <i>Henstead</i>	12
Plan of the <i>Venta Icenorum</i> , Ditto	22
Kirby Bedon, Ditto	39
Melton Constable, — <i>Holt</i>	83
V O L. VIII.	
Head of Sir Edward Coke, — <i>Launditch</i>	368
Ditchingham Hall, — <i>Loddon</i>	39
Quebec Castle, — <i>Mitford</i>	20
Letton Hall, Ditto	46
Buckenham St. Andrew's, — <i>Shropbam</i>	76
Amulets of the Druid Priests, Ditto	155
Embossment of a Danish Shield, Ditto	197
V O L. IX.	
King Edmund landing at Hunstanton, — <i>Smithdon</i>	34
Head of Sir Roger L'Estrange, Ditto	49
Mount Amelia, Ditto	68
Broomholme Priory, — <i>Tunstead</i>	12
Beeston House, Ditto	28
Westwick House, Ditto	103
V O L. X.	
View of Norwich, — <i>Norwich</i> , — <i>to face Introduction.</i>	
Map of Norwich, Ditto	1
Kett sitting under the Oak, Ditto	120
View of the Cathedral, Ditto	225
Erpingham Gate, Ditto	240
Norwich Castle, Ditto	302
Gurney's Bank, Ditto	379
Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Ditto	494

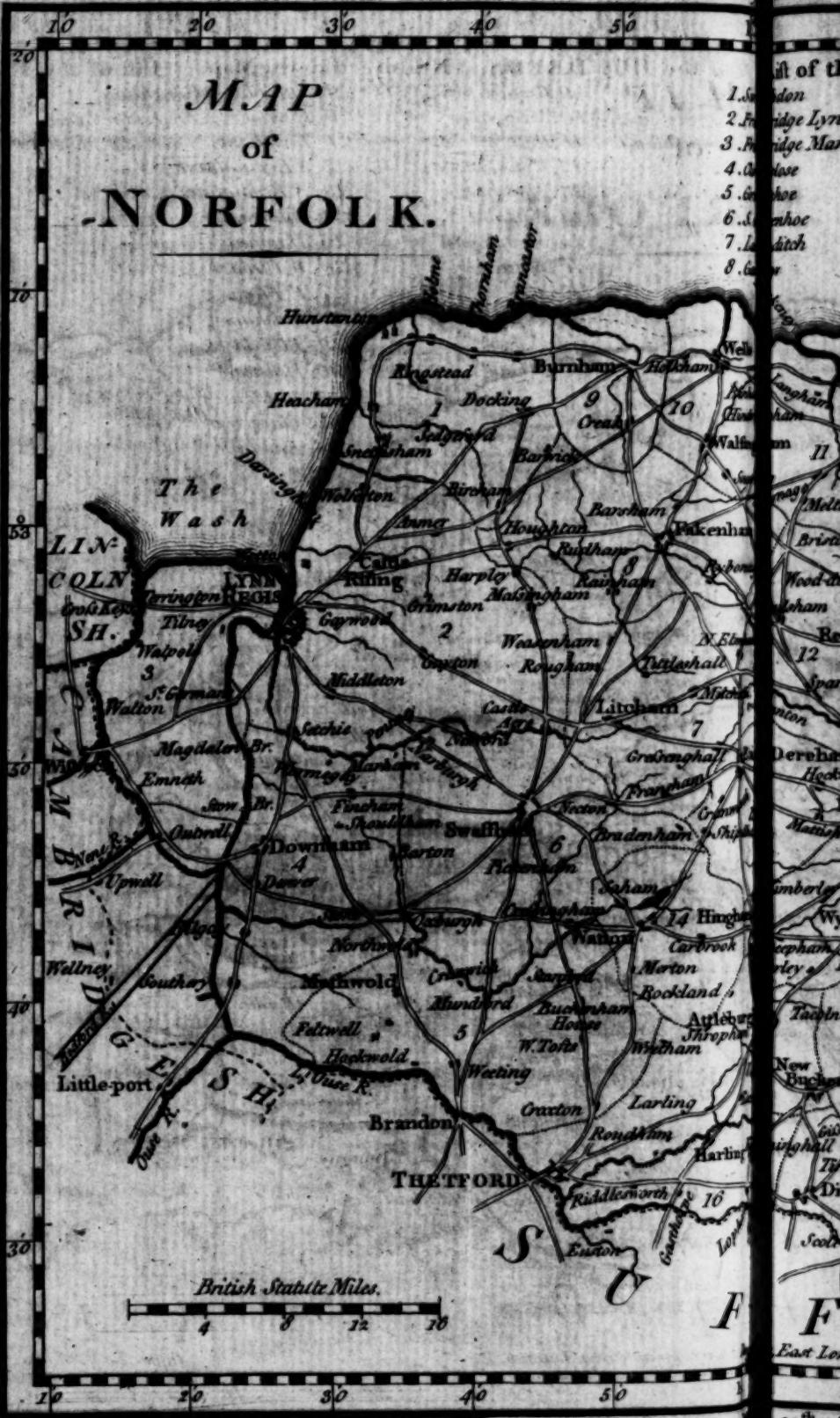


THE

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B R I T I S H O C E A N

list of the HUNDREDS as Number'd in the Map.

1. Sandon	9. Brotherhous	19. Humbleyard
2. Freston	10. N. Greenhoe	20. Forehoe
3. Freston	11. Holt	21. Taverham
4. Cawston	12. Eynsford	22. S. Erpingham
5. Greenhoe	13. Mitford	23. N. Erpingham
6. Shropham	14. Wayland	24. Tunstead
7. Loddon	15. Shropham	25. Happing
8. Loddon	16. Guiltarros	26. W. Flegg
	17. Dil	27. E. Flegg
	18. Depmote	28. Walsham
		29. Blofield
		30. Henstead
		31. Loddon
		32. Clavering
		33. Earsham



East Longitude from London.

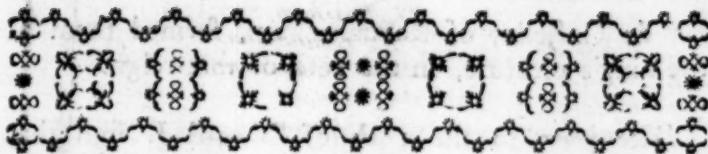
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THE
HISTORY
OF
NORFOLK.



HUNDRED of BLOFIELD.

THE crown had the lordship of this hundred, and Henry I. directed his writ to Ralph Basset, and Aubrey de Ver, to the sheriffs and barons of Norfolk, certifying his grant to Eborard bishop of Norwich, for life, of one hundred shillings per ann. out of the profits and issues of this hundred, and that of Walsham.

Sir William de St. Omer farmed these two hundreds, in the 52d of Henry III. at 9l. per ann. and in the 3d of Edward I. sir William lett them at 24l. per ann. together with that of Taverham. Nicholas

Ias de Castello, of Raveningham, farmed them at the king's pleasure, in the 10th of that reign.

The jury, in the 15th of Edward I. find that John Blaber, of Attlebridge, took sanctuary in the church of St. Mary in Norwich, in the liberty of the prior of Norwich; and that he confessed himself a thief: but the said church, though in the liberty of the prior, was in the precinct of Blofield hundred, and not in the city liberty, as appears from the records and rolls of Nicholas de Turri, and his associates, late itinerant justices; and that the whole parishes of St. Matthew, St. Helen, St. Martin, and St. Paul, in Norwich, were in Blofield hundred, and not in the liberty of the city; that Rotten-row, Tombland, and all the land to the river Wensum, Norman's land, or Paul's hospital, Holm-street, and St. Giles's hospital, were all in the said hundred before the charters of the king granted them to the city, which had no hamlet or village belonging to it, out of its walls or suburbs, but Heigham.

Sir John de Clavering held this hundred of the crown, in the 9th of Edward II. And James I. by letters patent, dated December 22, in his 4th year, granted to sir Charles Cornwallis, knt. the hundred of Blofield, with all the rights and profits, paying for the same the rent of 6l. 10s. 4d. per ann.

The hundred of Blofield is bounded on the north-east by the hundred of Walsham, on the north-west by Taverham, and on the south by the river Yare, which parts it from the hundreds of Henstead and Clavering. It extends from Bishopgate-bridge in the city of Norwich eight miles in an east direction to Lingwood. The length of this hundred, from the north-west to the south-east, where it is bounded

by

B L O F I E L D.

3

by the river Yare, is about twelve miles, and it is in breadth between three and four.

Blofield hundred contains the following towns, according to the poll in 1768 :

		W.	G.	A.	C.
Blofield	- -	5	4	11	10
Bradeston	- -	1	1	2	2
Brundall	- -	0	0	1	1
Buckenham	- -	0	0	1	1
Burlingham North	-	0	0	0	0
Burlingham South	-	0	0	0	0
Burlingham St. Andrew		2	1	13	12
Cantley	- -	1	1	8	8
Freethorpe	- -	4	4	2	2
Hasingham	-	0	0	1	1
Limpinhoe	- -	1	1	1	1
Lingwood	- -	0	1	5	4
Plumstead Great	-	0	0	0	0
Plumstead Little	-	1	1	5	5
Postwick cum Catton		4	4	1	1
Southwood	- -	1	1	2	2
Strumpshaw	-	4	4	6	6
Thorpe	- -	3	3	5	5
Witton	- -	3	3	0	0
		22	21	34	33

There is a ferry over the river Yare in this hundred, at Buckenham, about seven miles from Norwich, on the great road that leads from Strumpshaw to Loddon.

There was antiently a deanry, with its proper deans, collated by the bishop of Norwich. The deanry

deanry still retains the name of Blofield, but no deans have been collated for above two centuries past; and this hundred made part of the said deanry.

On an appeal of death, in the King's Bench, in the 38th of Henry III, the defendant pleaded that he was a clerk, and would not answer; and J. R. then dean of Blofield, came into court on behalf of the bishop of Norwich, and demanded him, as a clerk of Norwich diocese, by letters patent of the bishop, testifying that he constituted J. R. to require and receive him of the court as a clerk of his diocese; and he was delivered to J. R. the court speaking to him, that he should exhibit quick and full justice to him in the court ecclesiastical, according to the laws ecclesiastical.—This shews the manner, at that time, of pleading the benefit of the clergy.

There is no market-town in this hundred, probably from its lying so near Norwich and Yarmouth, and between both.

BLOFIELD is a pleasant village, at the distance of six miles and a half from Norwich to the east, upon the turnpike-road to Yarmouth. The Globe inn in this town, is much resorted to by the citizens of Norwich, when a recess from business will permit them to enjoy the pleasures of a cool retreat. The gardens, hop-grounds, and bowling-green at this place, are much admired.

This town was at the survey one entire lordship, possessed by William de Beaufoe, bishop of Thetford, in his own right, as a lay-fee. Almar bishop of Elmham was lord in king Edward's reign, and part

part of the Conqueror's, till deprived in 1070. He is said to have been a married priest, and to have held it in right of his wife, being her portion.

On the death of this bishop it came to the episcopal see by his donation, and was esteemed the head of the barony of the see of Norwich, and held *in capite* of the bishop by the antient family of de Cawston, or Cawston. Sir Robert de Cawston appears to have held it about the year 1236, and claimed, in the bishop's right, to fish, to cut reed in any part of the town, and fen lying against Witton, and sealed with the Holy Lamb.

In the 15th of Edward I. the bishop claimed free warren, &c. in his demean lands. In the see it remained till the exchange of lands made between Henry VIII. in his 27th year, and bishop Rugg, by act of parliament, Feb. 4, and then was vested in the crown: and the said king, on June 20, in his 32d year, granted it to sir Thomas Paaston, in confederation of other lands, together with the patronage of the church.

In this family it continued many years, Edward Paaston, esq. being lord and patron in 1640.

In Doomsday-book the town is wrote Blafelda, from its scite near a river, and gives name to the hundred: thus we find Blakeney in Norfolk, Blakenham and Blaxhall in Suffolk, Blakesley in Northamptonshire, Blakenhall in Cheshire, and Blabey in Leicestershire, all thus seated by some considerable water: also Blore in Staffordshire, and Blo-Norton in Norfolk.*

B

The

* Parkin.

The church is a rectory, and dedicated to St. Andrew.

The patronage was in the bishop of Norwich in 1303; and in 1549, February 6, William Bateman, bishop of Norwich, reserved the profits of this rectory, by papal authority, to the use of his table for life, but applied them to the building of Trinity-hall in Cambridge.

In 1735, the Rev. Philip Candeer, who had purchased the advowson of the living, was presented to it by Mr. James Park, and soon after sold the advowson to Gonville and Caius college in Cambridge for 1000l. as then reported; and the college on his decease, 1769, presented the Rev. Mr. Carlos, the present rector.

BLOFIELD DEANRY. Stephen Nally occurs dean in 1347, and is the last mentioned by Parkin. The deanry contains thirty-three parishes, eighteen of which are in the hundred of Blofield, and fifteen in Walsham.

BRADISTON, BRADESTON, or BRAYDESTON. William de Beaufoe, bishop of Thetford, held this town in fee at the survey, of which Edric, a free man, and captain of king Edward the Confessor's ship, was deprived.

Edric, who was deprived by the Conqueror, fled into Dacia, and was outlawed. Guido, who was seneschal to the bishops Herbert and Eborard, (who possessed it in right of their fee) by the gift of Beaufoe, was enfeoffed of it about the year 1095: his descendants assumed the name of De Bredeston.

Adam

Adam de Bredeston was lord, and patron of the church, and father of Thomas de Bredeston, who was living in the reign of king John, and left three daughters and co-heirs; Egidia, married to John de Cawston. Olivia, to Robert de Boynton, both living in the 24th of Henry III. as testified by a fine; and Elizabeth, the wife of Robert de Blomville. Olivia and Elizabeth dying without issue, the whole estate came to sir John de Cawston, father of sir Robert.

Sir John de Cawston possessed it in the 9th of Edward II. and one of the same name presented to this church in 1346. Sir Robert died lord about 1350; he had two daughters and co-heirs, Margery; who married sir Robert Carbonel, and Mary, (or Alice) the wife of William Fastolf, who died without issue.

Sir Robert Carbonel was lord in the 3d of Richard II. and died Sept. 14, 1398, in the 21st of that king.

Sir John Carbonel, his son, by his testament, dated on Friday next after the feast of St. Martin, 1423, gives to Margaret, wife of his son Richard, a chain of gold; to Richard, his silver vessels, jewels, and goods in several manors; mentions his lordships of Braydeston, Cawston, Shipdham, West-Tofts, Hapton, Tibbenham, Brisingham, Ryvehale, Metton, and Antingham in Norfolk; Baddingham, Saxham, Dalinghoe, Creting, and 3l. 7s. rent per ann. in Cratfield, Suffolk. He was also lord of Pensthorpe, Strumpshaw, Wilby, Witton, and the Burlinghams in Norfolk.

Sir Richard, his son, is said to have died abroad in 1429; the lady Margaret in 1431, and their only son soon after.

Thomas Peck, clerk, was appointed trustee for the estate of this family, and in the 10th of Henry V. he enfeoffed sir Robert Brews, John Fitz-Ralph, &c. on the feast of St. Philip and James. Great part of which estate came to the Berneys, as heirs by marriage.

John Berney, esq. son and heir of Thomas Berney and Margaret, daughter and heir of sir William de Reedham, by his will, dated in 1440, inherited this lordship, &c. and ordered his feoffees to make an estate of it to Thomas his son, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of sir John Heveningham. Thomas married Elizabeth, daughter of John Clipsby, esq. and by his will, dated on Thurday next after the feast of St. George, 1441, appoints his wife to have a third part of this manor, &c. for her jointure. In this family it remained, till sold to sir James Edwards, bart. about 1700.

The lady Edwards possessed it in 1717; after this it was in sir Lambert Blackwell, bart. and his heirs held it in 1740, with the patronage of the church.

Carteret Leathes, esq. was lord in 1735, and presented to the church in 1758 and 1764.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Michael. The length of the church is about twenty-two yards, the breadth seven yards; is a single pile, has a little square tower, about forty-five feet high, with three bells; also a chancel, which, with the church, is covered with lead.

In

In the chancel a grave-stone, with a brass plate: *Hic jacet Osbertus, filius Joh. Berney, Armig. de Redham Dni. et de Brayston.*

On another; *Hic jacet Ricus. Berney, filius Joh. Redham.*

In 1764, the Rev. William Nelson was presented by Carteret Leathes, esq. to this rectory.

BRUNDALL, or BRUNDALE, is pleasantly situated by the banks of the river Yare, and on the road leading from Reedham to Norwich; seven miles from the latter.

On the expulsion of Godwin, a freeman, the Conqueror on his accession to the crown gave it to Ralph Guade, earl of Norfolk, who was deprived as a rebel; and at the survey Gilbert, captain of the cross-bowmen, held it. Gilbert was also lord of Tunstall in Walsham hundred, Shropham in Shropham hundred, and Shelton in Diss hundred.

The antient family of de Sancto Omero, or St. Omer, were lords of this village in the 6th of king John.

Sir Thomas de St. Omer, in the 20th of Henry III. held it by half a fee of Roger Fitz-Roger. William de St. Omer, in the 38th of that king, had a grant of a fair here and in Mulbarton, with free warren, being then with the king in Gascoigne in France: sir Thomas his son and heir, in 1275 was a justice itinerant with Simon de Grey, in Cambridgeshire,

In the 47th of Edward III. Thomas Waryne and Elizabeth his wife conveyed their right in this manor, &c. to sir William Hoo and Alice his wife, by whom he had sir Thomas, his son and heir. In 1386 he was governor of the castle of Oye in France, and died in 1410, aged 76.

Thomas Wetherby, esq. of Norwich, by his will dated November 12, 1444, gives it to Margaret his wife, remainder to John Winter, esq. and John Jenney, esq. conveyed it, in the 17th of Edw. IV. with the advowson, to Henry Collet, esq. citizen and alderman of London, from the heirs of Elizabeth, daughter and heir probably of Wetherby. Sir James Hobart, attorney-general, purchased it of sir Henry Collet, in the reign of Henry VII. and gave it to Miles Hobart, his second son, who was lord in the 15th of Henry VIII. and died lord in 1557. Henry Hobart, esq. was lord and patron in 1595, and sir Thomas Hobart in 1614, as was sir Miles Hobart in 1628. After this, Edward Myleham, gent. and Andrew Cleach; in 1701, William Hewar, esq. of Clapham in Surry; and William Hewar in 1742, lord and patron.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Lawrence.

The Rev. Mr. Norwood Sparrowe was presented by the bishop by lapse, and died rector of this parish January 31, 1779.

The bishop of Norwich's manor of Bradiston extended into this town, and had the same lords as Bradiston; and there was a chapel belonging to it, dedicated to St. Clement, valued with the rectory of Bradiston,

Bradiston, the rector being instituted and presented to Bradiston, with the chapel of St. Clement.

BUCKENHAM, alias BUCKENHAM-FERRY, takes its name from its site on the river Yare, over which there is a ferry here. Bo and Ken bespeak a winding or bending stream of water.

At the survey there were three lordships in this town; the principal was in Roger Bigot, ancestor to the earls of Norfolk, who held it of the abbey of Bury, to which it belonged in the reign of the Confessor, and was enfeoffed of it by Baldwin, abbot of Bury, in the time of the Conqueror.

Ralph Water, or Guader, earl of Norfolk, had a fee, but forfeiting it on his rebellion against the Conqueror, he seised upon it, and it was granted afterwards to Roger Bigot.

These two fees being thus in the Bigots, earls of Norfolk, the family of the lords de Monchensi seem to be enfeoffed of them by the Bigots, and were held by many of the Monchensi's.

In 1319, Gilbert Lovel presented, and John de Ratlesden in 1337.

In 1390, sir Richard Stury presented; and about 1395, those two fees seem to be in the tenure of one lord, and united, or at least the right of advowson belonging to these fees was in one.

Sir Henry Inglois was lord 1447; by his will in 1450 orders it to be sold; and his son, Robert Inglois, esq. with Alianore his wife, convey it to William de Norwich in the 35th of Henry VI. with that

that of Hasingham. After this it came to sir John Jermy, sen. who in his will stiles himself of Buckenham-Ferry, dated October 24, 1487, requires to be buried in the church of St. John, of Metfield; and gives to the church of St. Nicholas, of Buckenham, three shillings and four-pence; and to the fabrick of every church whereof he was patron twenty shillings; to Margaret his wife this manor for life, with the advowson, and that of Hasingham, with a messuage called Lightfotys; after to be sold, and the money distributed to pious uses.

In the 7th of Henry VIII. John Flegg, gent. and Margaret Idle, widow, convey it to sir Ralph Verney. In the 30th of that king it was settled by Edward North, esq. and Richard Giffard, gent. on Thomas Godsalve, sen. of Norwich, and Elizabeth Potkyn, widow, whom he intended to marry, with twenty messuages and lands here, and in other towns. This Thomas died lord, September 7, in the 36th of Henry VIII. and lord of Hasingham, Loddon and Heckingham, lately belonging to Langley abbey; two parts of Ingloise and Washingfield manors in Loddon, Hardley manor, &c.

By Elizabeth Potkyn he had two sons; the eldest, sir John Godsalve, was with Henry VIII. at Boulogne, in the war with France; comptroller of the mint, in the 3d of Edward VI. His portrait is in the closet at Kensington.—Of this family was Christopher, who in serving king Charles I. lost 7000l. and was near being hanged; and after employed in the navy office, in Charles II.'s reign, dying about 1694.

Sir John was created knight of the carpet, at the coronation of Edward VI.

After

After this, Mr. Alcock, who married a Sotherton, was lord ; and —— Denny, esq. who married Alcock's daughter, enjoyed it in 1660 : he conveyed it to sir Thomas Foote, bart. from whom it came to the Onflows, of Surry ; the lady Elizabeth Hastings possessed it, and sold it to Richard Berney, esq. lord and patron in 1740.

In the 15th of Edward I. the jury find that the causeway here to the ferry was common for men, horses and carriages, and was broke, much to the damage of the whole country, and William de Fellingham, William de Westmere, Ralph de Langwode, John de Ratlesden (who was a minor) ought to repair it, and were amerced.

William de Beaufoe, bishop of Thetford, had also a lordship, granted him by the Conqueror. At the death of bishop de Beaufoe it came by his grant, with many other lordships, to the see of Norwich. Walter Suffield, bishop, had a charter for free warren, in the 35th of Henry III. as lord : the family of de Cawston had an interest in it under the bishops ; and the lord Bardolph, as a member of the bishop's capital manor of Blofield.

In the 3d of Henry IV. Hugh Rightwise, John Bole, and their pareners, held lands ; and Thomas de Hindringham, of the lord Bardolph, and he of the bishop : likewise lands of the Cawstons, by the same tenure.

Sir Thomas Kerdeston, in the 26th of Henry VI. appears by his will to have the third part of the profits of the passage at this ferry, which came to him by descent, and the rent of a quarter of great salt paid by the tenants.

In Buckenham-hall were the arms of Nokes impaling Godsalve.—Godsalve and Townshend.—Godsalve and Shelton.—Also Blundevile and Godsalve.

The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas.

BURLINGHAM-NORTH, St. Andrew with St. Edmund. William de Beaufoe, bishop of Thetford, had a grant in fee of the greatest part of this town, of which three freemen were deprived, who possessed it under the commendation only of Almar bishop of Elmham, in the reign of the Confessor.

Bishop Beaufoe gave his fees in Burlingham to his successors, the bishops of Norwich, and several lordships arose out of these fees, which lordships were in the fee of Norwich, and held by the bishops *in capite*.

The antient family of de Cawston were lords of a manor, held of the fee of Norwich in the reign of Henry III. From the Cawstons it came with the advowson of St. Andrew's church, to sir Robert Carbonel; from them to the Berneys, so to sir James Edwards, bart. and the heirs of sir Lambert Blackwell, bart. possessed it, with the patronage of St. Andrew's church, in 1740. It afterwards was purchased by Carteret Leathes, esq. who presented as lord and patron to the churches of St. Andrew and St. Edmund, in 1741 and 1751.

The lords Bardolph, barons of Wormegay in Norfolk, were also enfeoffed of a lordship under the bishops of Norwich: George de Felmingham was found in the 20th of Henry III. to hold half a fee of the lord Bardolph, and that lord of the bishop.

In the 3d of Henry IV. Hugh Rightwise, and John Boole, &c. held it of the aforesaid lord, by half a fee. Hugh died in the 13th of Henry VI. and John his son and heir had livery. To this manor belonged the patronage of St. Peter's church.

WALCOTE-HALL, OR DAUBENY MANOR. In the 10th of Richard I. Thomas de Walcote was living, and had an interest here; and in the 41st of Henry III. the advowson of the church of North Burlingham St. Andrew, was granted to the daughter of Thomas de Walcote: Alexander de Walcote was lord in the 9th of Edward II. and 15th of Edward III. anno 1341. It was afterwards in the possession of several lords till about 1430, when William and Robert Cavendish for 40l. confirmed it to William Daubeny.

Henry Daubeny, gent. in the 30th of Hen. VIII. sold it to sir Christopher Heydon, and in the said year he conveyed it to Richard Gilbert, of Burlingham, gent. was buried in the church of Burlingham St. Andrew, in 1548. Thomas Gilbert, a descendant, was lord in the 19th of James I. but dying s. p. the daughters and co-heirs of Richard Gilbert sold it, in 1654, to William Berney, esq. of Elsing, and so came from them to Edwards, Blackwell, and Carteret Leathes, esq. as above.

William de St. Clair held a manor in North Burlingham, and sold in the 57th of Henry III. by fine, all his right, to William de Hevingham, in this town and South Walfham. Adam son of John de Brancaster, the other heir of Nicholas le Butler, conveyed also his right to Guy de Botetourt.

In the 9th of Edward II, and the 20th of Edward III. John Stoneware had part of a fee of the bishop. Sir John Faſtolf poſſeſſed it in the 3d of Henry IV.

There is a very good capital mansion-house in this town, late in the poſſeſſion of —— Birchin, esq. with a property of about 800l. per ann. He dying unmarried, bequeathed the estate by will to the late Jeremiah Boroughs, esq. of Wymondham, who married one of his ſisters; but through ſome informality of the proceedings of the attorney and the executor, the will was ſet aside, and his ſisters came in as joint co-heiresses to the estate. The late judge Whitaker, who married one of the ſisters, and the preſent Charles Buckle, esq. steward of the corporation of Norwich, who married the mother of Mr. Birchin, had great merit in recovering the estate to an equal division amongſt the ſisters: they were indefatigable in feeing justice done to the young ladies, and that great and upright judge, lord Camden, (late Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain) confirmed their right.

The church of St. Andrew, in North Burlingham, is a rectorie.

On a monument in the church. — — *Deo Trino, et Uni Sacrum.* — *Secundum Chriſli Redemptoris adventum sub hoc tumulo expeſlat Gregorius Mileham, filius Roberti Mileham de Birlingham, Gener. qui cum ex Anna uxore, chariſſima filia Willi. Bayſpoole de Toft, Gener. unum filium, filiamq; unam fuſcepifſet pie in Chriſto obdormivit 8 die Apr. Aº. ſalutis 1615, Aetatis ſuæ 64. — Edw. Mileham, filius maſtiffimus patri optimo, et chariſſimo, officiōſe pietatis et memoriae ergo hoc monumentum poſuit,*

In

In this town of North Burlingham was also the church of St. Edmund, a rectory.

The present rector is the Rev. Mr. Isaac Batail, presented in 1751, by Carteret Leathes, esq. to Burlingham St. Andrew and St. Edmund, consolidated April 24, 1741.

In the 4th of Edward I. sir Stephen de Strumpshaw, knt. sold the advowson to the lord William Bardolph by fine; and the said lord gave it, in the 13th of that king, with three acres of land, to the priory of Castleacre, in exchange for the advowson of the church of Westbriggs.

On the dissolution of Castleacre priory, it was conveyed by the prior to king Henry VIII. in his 29th year; and in the said year, on December 22, granted to the duke of Norfolk.

BURLINGHAM, SOUTH. Bishop Beaufoe had, by the grant of the Conqueror, the greatest part of this town, which he held in fee.

The lord Bardolph's manor extended into this town, and the Felminghams. The Rightwises, also the families of De Hintringham and Gernoun, held under him,

The Burlinghams had a lordship.—The Burlingham family held this manor most of the reign of Henry III. From the Burlinghams, in process of time, it came to the Bradistons, Cawstons, Carbonels, so to Berney, Edwards, and sir Lamber Blackwell's heirs, and so to Carteret Leathes, esq. of Bury St. Edmund's in Suffolk.

In this town is the church of St. Peter, a rectory.

The king had a lordship at the survey, which Godric his feward took care of, held by a freeman of Ralph Stalre.—This Ralph was earl of Norfolk, and after outlawed as a rebel.

This was granted soon after the survey to Roger Bigot, ancestor of the earls of Norfolk.

In the 8th of Richard II, Margaret countess of Norfolk, &c. aliened to the prior of Weybridge in Acle, a messuage and ninety-two acres of land in South and North Burlingham, &c.

At the dissolution, on March 29, anno 1533, 24th Henry VIII. Richard Fulmerston, esq. had a grant of lands held here by the priory of Weybridge; and in the 1st of Edward VI. Catharine Borough died seised of a manor, and sixty acres of land, in South Burlingham, held of the bishop of Norwich, by knight's service, and of his manor of Strumpshaw.

The Rev. John Panchen was presented to this rectory by the university of Cambridge in 1773.

CANTLEY. Godric, the Conqueror's steward, took care of this town at the survey, of which Ralph Stalre was deprived, lord in the reign of king Edward.

NETHERHALL, alias BARDOLPH'S MANOR. Ralph Stalre, a Saxon thane, had large possessions and lordships of his own, besides what he held of the abbot of Holme, &c. Soon after the survey it was granted from the crown to the noble family of de Gournay. Hugh de Gournay, a Norman baron, was a witness to

to the foundation deed of the abbey of Caen in Normandy, in 1084, founded by the Conqueror ; and Hugh de Gournay was lord in this town in the 7th of Richard I. Julian daughter and heir of the lord Hugh de Gournay, brought it by marriage to William lord Bardolph, of Wormegay, who in her right was lord in the 38th of Henry III. and had then a grant of free warren.

In the 3d of Edward I. anno 1275, the lord Bardolph had the lete, view of frank-pledge, the assise, &c. and in the 12th of that king a charter for an annual fair, on the eve, the day, and morrow of the feast of St. Margaret the Virgin, July 28.

Thomas lord Bardolph being attainted and executed, for his rebellion in the reign of Henry IV. sir William his brother held this, but not his barony of Wormegay, in the hundred of Clackclose. It came after to William lord Beaumont, and on the death of William lord viscount Beaumont, in 1507, to the crown. Henry VIII. on July 5, in his 6th year, granted it to sir William Arundel, lord Mattravers, with the manors of Stow-Bardolph, Strumpshaw and Scratby. Henry, son and heir of William earl of Arundel, (who died in the 35th of that king) had livery of it, who conveyed it to the crown, and in the 3d and 4th of Philip and Mary, on January 2, in the said year, this lordship was given to Thomas Gawdy, esq. who presented to this church in 1564 : sir Thomas Gawdy, knt. judge of the Common Pleas, died seised of it in the 30th of Elizabeth ; and Henry was his son and heir, afterwards knight of the Bath. In 1650, Thomas Gawdy, esq. was lord, and presented ; but in 1663, sir Thomas Rant ; and sir William Rant in 1690 and 1703.

After this it came to the Harbords, and Harbord Harbord, esq. was lord and patron in 1720. On his decease it came to his nephew, Capt. Morden, the late sir William Harbord, bart. and knight of the Bath, and so to the present sir Harbord Harbord, whose father was created a baronet by the late king, George II.

This manor, as also the manor of Strumpshaw, was in William son of sir John Philip, of Donnington in Suffolk, who was in the 16th of Henry VI. created lord Bardolph, having married the daughter of Thomas lord Bardolph, and being lord chamberlain to the king.

UPHALL MANOR took its rise from the grant of Hugh de Gournay, (capital lord of the town) to Roger Botetourt; which he held of Hugh in the 13th of Henry III. anno 1229.

Sir Guy de Botetourt had the aſſe in the 3d of Edward I. and held it of the lord Bardolph as part of the honor of Gournay; and in the 33d sir Guy ſettled it on his ſon William: in the 12th of Edw. II. it was ſettled on William de Botetourt, and Maud his wife, in tail.

John ſon and heir of Thomas de Botetourt, was living in the 2d of Edward III. and John ſon and heir of sir John de Botetourt, was lord in the 40th of Edward III.

In the 2d of Henry IV. sir Hugh Burnell and Jocosa his wife, by their feoffees ſettled this manor, with that of Upton in Norfolk, and manors in Worcesterſhire, Staffordſhire, Warwickſhire, and in Bucks, on their trustee, John Rome, clerk; many of which lordſhips

Lordships came to Thomas de Botetourt, by the marriage of Joan, sister and co-heir of John lord Somery, and so to her son, sir John; but his son, John Botetourt, leaving only a daughter and heir, Jocosa, she brought them by marriage to sir Hugh Burnel. John Rome, their trustee, in the aforesaid year conveyed this lordship, and that of Upton, to sir Thomas Erpingham. Margaret, the other sister of Jocosa, and co-heir of John lord Somery, of Dudley, married John de Sutton, and was lord Dudley.

In the 12th of Henry VI. Nicholas Witchingham died lord, and left William, his son and heir by Alice his first wife, and by Joan his second, Edmund Witchingham, of Wood-rising, who by Alice his wife, daughter and heir of John Fastolf, of Fishley, had four daughters and co-heirs: Amy, married to sir Richard Southwell, in whose right he was lord of the town; and Frances, married to sir William Mull, of Harcombe in Gloucestershire, who in the 16th of Edward IV. conveyed this manor of Uphall to Richard Southwell, esq.

In the 57th of Henry VIII. sir Richard Southwell conveyed it to John Godsalve, esq. and sir John Godsalve died possessed of it in the 3d and 4th of Philip and Mary. After this it was in the Stedes; William Stede had livery of it about the 24th of Elizabeth, anno 1582.

The church is a rectory dedicated to St. Margaret. The Rev. Thomas Morden, brother to the late sir Wm, Harbord, was presented to this rectory in 1736.

FREETHORPE. At the survey the king was lord, and Godric took care of it for him, with Limpenhoe

penhoe and Hasingham. William de Beaufoe, bishop of Thetford, had a grant of some lands here from the Conqueror in fee.

Soon after the survey this was granted from the crown, and Robert Fitz-Roger, lord of Horsford, father of sir John Clavering, held it *in capite* in the reign of Richard I.

In the reign of Henry III. Roger Fitz-Peter and Edward de Eynsford had lordships here, in Southwood, and Limpenhoe, held of Robert Fitz-Roger.

In the 3d of Edward I. anno 1275, sir Reginald Fitz-Peter Fitz-Osbert, and William de Eynsford, had the lete and assise. Reginald died in the 14th of that king; Jane his widow had assignment then of dower, and John was his son and heir, and his lordship was valued at 16l. per ann. and the heirs of Gerard de Eynsford had a lordship in the 20th of Edward III.

Dionysia Clere, widow, was found to hold late Eynsford's, of the heirs of Robert Ufford, by half a fee, in the 3d of Henry IV. and in Limpenhoe and Southwood: in the family of the Cleres, of Ormesby, it remained many years, and came after to the Berneys.—Lady Eliz. Clere presented in 1630, —In 1675, Richard Berney, esq. was lord, and presented to the church in that year and in 1692; after this the Edwards held it, and sir James Edwards, bart about 1720; and sir Lambert Blackwell, bart. whose heirs had it, in 1740; and so to Cartaret Leathes, esq. the present lord and patron.

Arnold de Mounteney had also a lordship here and in Hasingham, in the reign of Henry III. in the

the same family it was found in the 20th of Edward III. and in the 3d of Henry IV.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and was a rectory. On the grant of it to St. Faith's priory of Horsham, a vicarage was appointed. The presentation was sometime in the crown and the bishop of Norwich.

The Rev. Moses White was presented by George II. in 1752; and in 1775 Carteret Leathes, esq. presented the Rev. Edward Leathes to this vicarage

HASINGHAM, or HASSINGHAM. The Conqueror had a lordship, which Godric, his steward, took care of for him at the survey; of this Ralph Guader, earl of Norfolk, was deprived for his rebellion.

Roger Bigot, ancestor of the earls of Norfolk, had a grant of it from the crown, and was held of that family, with the manor of Buckenham-Ferry.

Adam de Ratlesden was lord of it in the reign of Henry III. After the Ratlesdens, William de Braham possessed it, and had successively the same lords with Buckenham-Ferry, the lady Hastings selling it to Richard Berney, esq. who was lord and patron in 1740.

The bishop of Norwich had also a lordship here, his manor of Buckenham extending into this town.

Arnold de Mounteney had an interest here in the 20th of Henry III. and held lands of Robert lord Fitz-Walter. John de Hasingham, in the 34th of that king, held the moiety of a messuage, and lands of inheritance.

In the 13th of Edward II. sir Arnold de Mounteney had a lordship ; and held here, in Plumstead Parva, and Freethorpe, a fee of the earl of Rutland.

Nicholas Peyton, of Filby, in the 21st of Henry VII. held this manor of Hasingham, as appears from a rental.

The church of Hasingham is a rectory, and was annexed to Buckenham, October 2, 1739. The Rev. Furnivall Bowen was presented by the late sir Wm. Beauchamp Proctor, bart. of Langley, 1768.

LIMPENHOE. On the forfeiture of Ralph earl of Norfolk it came to the crown, and Godric took care of it for the king at the survey.

This was granted from the crown after the survey, and held by several lords, and the chief manor was given to Flaald, lord of Mileham.

Richard de Dunham, in the 3d of Richard I. anno 1192, owed five marks to have his right for 10l. land here, and in Southwood, against Reginald de Hastings.

Roger Fitz-Peter, and Edward de Eynsford, had lordships in the reign of Henry III. Gerard de Eynsford was lord in the 14th of Edward II. when a marsh which he had here, is said in a record to be bounded south on the river Wensom ; this is mentioned, the general part of writers calling it the Yare, or Hier, at this place.

Dionysian de Clere enjoyed it, lately the heirs of Gerard de Eynsford, of the heirs of Robert de Ufford,

ford. From the Cleres it came to the Berneys, and so to sir James Edwards, bart. and to sir Lambert Blackwell and his heirs, who were patrons of this church, and that of Southwood in 1742, and to Cartaret Leathes, esq.

Arnold de Mounteney had also an interest here, in Henry III.

William de Scohies had a lordship at the survey. William de Reedham was lord of this in the 8th of Richard I. and conveyed the advowson of the church, by fine, to Robert Fitz-Roger; and in the 31st of Edward I. John of Reedham, granted by fine to John Fitz-John, a messuage, land, meadow, pasture, and turbary, in this town, Southwood and Freethorpe: and in the 9th of Edward III. Gerard de Eynsford, sir Hubert Fitz-John, William de Reedham, and the earl of Arundel, were returned as lords of Limpenhoe and Southwood.

In the 3d of Henry IV. the heirs of John Steynward had a quarter of a fee of the manor of Mileham, of the earl of Arundel, which John and his parceners held in this town and Southwood in the 20th of Edward III. anno 1346.

This town lies at the extremity of this hundred of Blofield, to the south-east, and is situated near the river Yare, where it parts it from Clavering.

The wherries from Norwich frequently pass all the towns upon the Yare, and arrive at Yarmouth in four hours from Sandlin's Ferry at the bottom of the lower close near the cathedral. This swift passage is owing to the tide from the sea, which blows up the river

river Yare, and when wind and tide favour the boats, make their passage quick from both places.

The church is dedicated to St. Botolph. In the 8th of Richard I. William de Reedham granted his right in this church to Robert Fitz-Roger, being then a rectory; and John Fitz-Roger gave it by fine to Hugh abbot of Langley, in exchange for the church of Eure in Buckinghamshire. A vicarage was then settled.

In the 14th of Elizabeth, anno 1572, March 8, Richard Hills and William James had a grant of the appropriated rectory, and patronage of the vicarage, late belonging to Langley abbey, with certain concealed lands, in fee-farm.

The church was consolidated with Soothwood in 1697, and the Rev. Thomas Morden was presented to this vicarage, with the rectory of Southwood, in 1735, by Carteret Leathes, esq. of Bury St. Edmund's.

LINGWOOD, lies half a mile south of the great road leading from Norwich to Yarmouth. There is no mention made of this town in the grand survey, it being a part and member of the bishop of Norwich's great lordship of Blofield, and so valued, &c. under it, and was held of the fee of Norwich by the families of de Cateston and de Lingwood.

In the 9th of Edward II. John de Cateston, or Cawston, and William de Lingwood, were returned to be lords; and William de Lingwood was patron of the church and lord in 1349.

Margaret,

Margaret, countess of Norfolk, aliened to Weybridge priory a messuage, ninety-two acres of land, with three shillings rent in this town and in the Burlinghams, with the advowson of the church, belonging to the manor of Blofield, as was found in the 8th of Richard II. anno 1385.

In the 32d of Henry VIII. the king granted to Thomas Paston, esq, messuages and lands here, with the manors of Blofield and Beighton, and lands lately belonging to Langley abbey.

The church was a rectory, dedicated to St. Peter.

In the 18th of Elizabeth, Jan. 30, 1576, the rectory was granted to John Dudley and John Ascough, in consideration of divers messuages, lands, and tenements, in the isle of Shepey in Kent, sold to them by Henry Cheney. In 1609 Edward Hilton held it, and was the impropriator. It is now a curacy, and was in the gift of Mr. Hilton in 1740.

The Rev. Thomas Goddard, jun. is patron, and presented himself to this curacy in 1770.

PLUMSTEAD MAGNA, or GREAT PLUMSTEAD.
Guert, brother of king Harold, and slain with him at the battle of Hastings, had a freeman, who possessed under him a caracute of land, which Godwin after held. William de Beaufoe, bishop of Thetford, was lord at the survey in his own right, as a lay-fee, by grant of the Conqueror.

After the Conqueror was king, Almar, bishop of Elmham, invaded or seized on this land, as forfeited on account of the marriage of a woman, who remarried within the term of one year expired after her

her late husband's death; probably Godwin above-mentioned.

When the book of Doomsday was made, Plumstead was not divided into two townships; however it appears, that all these tenures were, at that time, in the possession of bishop Beaufoe; and at his death he gave them to his see of Norwich, and, making one considerable lordship, was held of the see; but some time after it seems to be divided, by some grant of the bishop to the priory of Norwich,

In the reign of Henry III. we find, in old writings, this town to be called Guymere-Homestede; and Walter bishop of Norwich, as lord, had a charter of free warren. The family of De Cateslton, or Cawston, had an interest herein, held of the see; as had John de Tofte in the said reign.

Plumstead Magna and Parva belonged both of them to the cathedral church and priory at Norwich, till king Henry VIII. seized on all the lands of that see, and exchanged them for the lands belonging to the priory of St. Bennet in the Holme.

The manor of Great Plumstead was in the crown at the king's death, and descended to his son king Edward VI. but as his father had promised it to sir Thomas Cawarden in his life-time, this virtuous young prince gave this manor to him and his heirs for ever, with all the woods and advowsons thereunto belonging: but he reserved the manor of Little Plumstead, which still remained in the crown.

In the 1st of Edward VI. sir Thomas Cawarden had a grant of it, late the priory of Norwich's manor, with a fold-course in this town, Plumstead Parva,

va, Postwick, &c. and in the said year 1547, Cawarden had licence to alien it to Henry Ward, of Postwick, esq. Thomas Ward, esq. died seised in 1632, and sir Randel Ward, bart. of Bixley, died lord of it.

William de Scohies had, at the survey, eight acres of land. From William de Scohies it came to Walter Giffard, earl of Bucks; and from that family, by marriage, to the earls of Clare.

Alan Hovel, son of Peter, held lands of this fee, which he granted to William de Kirkeby, prior of Norwich.

The late sir Randel Ward dying without issue, it came to his only sister Sufan, who married the earl of Rosebery, one of the fifteen peers of Scotland, and knight of the Thistle, who is the present lord.

Sir Randel Ward, who succeeded his elder brother sir Edward, was a valuable character, having two virtues amongst his other amiable qualities, not too frequently met with in this age, sincerity and generosity: he died much lamented by all who knew him: he was in the commission of the peace, and an excellent magistrate.

The church, which was a rectory, and dedicated to St. Mary, with the chapel of St. Eustachius, was appropriated by John de Grey, bishop of Norwich, to that priory.

The patronage of the vicarage is in the dean and chapter of Norwich, with the appropriated rectory.

In the bishop's register Plumstead Magna is distinguished a curacy, and the late Rev. Norwood Sparrowe died possessed of this living Jan. 31, 1779.

PLUMSTEAD PARVA. Ralph, a captain of the Conqueror's cross bowmen, had a grant of this lordship on the conquest.

The Conqueror was possessed of lands here when the book of Doomsday was made, and Godric the king's steward had the care of them.

Most of, if not all, the tenures in Plumstead were granted by the Conqueror, soon after the survey, to Flaald, or Alan his son, ancestor of the Fitz-Alans, earls of Arundel, together with the great lordship of Mileham in Norfolk; and under the lords of that town several persons possessed the fees and tenures.

Richard de Dunham had lands held of Mileham manor, by the king's writ, in the first year of Richard I.

About this time (1190) William de Mounteney confirmed to William de Plumstede lands.

This family held the principal part of Plumstead of the lord of Mileham, and took their name from this town. It was held by grand serjeanty to find a crofs-bow, or balista.

John de Plumstede had a lordship in the 20th of Henry III. and there appears to be a park here in the 37th of that king.

Robert de Mounteney gives to the priory of Norwich, by deed *sans date*, his mill belonging to his fee,

fee, or lordship, in Plumstead, standing on the river Ger.[†]

In the 34th of Henry III. Richard de Witton held lands by serjeanty, in finding a cross-bow in the king's army, or a balista, at his own costs, valued at five marks, as did Richard de Plumstede in the 15th of Edward I.

In the 16th of Edward I. Ifolda de Mounteney impleaded Adam de Creting for the patronage of this church: her plea was, that Arnold de Mounteney, as lord of Sprowston, was patron of this church, and had enfeoffed her; but Adam proving himself to be lord of Sprowston, he recovered it. The Mounteneys held that part of this town which belonged to Edric de Laxfield, in the Confessor's reign.

Sir Arnold de Mounteney, and John de Plumflede, returned to be lords in the 9th of Edward II. and sir John de Plumflede, living also in the 3d and 6th of Edward III. on whose death it came to sir Edmund de Illey, by the marriage of Alice his daughter and heir. Sir Edmund de Illey, and Arnold de Monteney, were lords in the 14th of that king.

Sir Richard de Illey, son and heir of Edmund, was living in the 37th of Edward III. By his will, dated at Plumstead Parva, October 21, 1363, he bequeaths his soul to the blessed Mary and All Saints, and his body to be buried where it shall please God; to the high altar of the holy Trinity of Norwich, for tithes *forgot*, 13s. 4d. to that of Plumstead Parva, 13s. 4d. that of Hale, half a mark; and to Alan

D 2 his

† Whether this is meant for the river Yare, or Bure, we cannot determine; most probably the former.

his brother, if he survived him two years, his green bed in his manor-house here, which bed was woven with doves, roses, &c. all the vessels of the kitchen and brewhouse, all carts, ploughs and instruments belonging; one vestment, with a chalice and missal; his new vestment to be delivered to the parishioners of this town; and if Alan should die within the two years, then his executors to sell them for his foul's health: to John Lampole of Marsham, fifty shillings, for all things *forgotten*; to John Cressingham, twenty shillings; to John de Hapsburgh, a monk of Norwich, twenty shillings; to Robert Illey his brother, all his bows, with the arrows, and one hundred shillings; to Jeffrey Baffeson, his servant, a cow and ten shillings; and to each of his servants a cow; appoints sir Edmund Cole, rector of Hale, Robert his brother, and Jeffrey Baffeson, residuary legatees; gives to sir Edmund Cole forty shillings for his pains, and died without issue, as Alan his brother did soon after him.

Sir Robert Illey his brother succeeded him, who with Catherine his wife, were living in the 43d of the aforesaid king: he died before the 21st of Richard II. Catherine his widow confirming then to her trustees her manor of Fring in Smithdon hundred.

In the 3d of Henry IV. the heirs of Arnold de Mounteney were lords of a manor, held of the earl of Rutland.

Lady Catherine Illey, widow, on the day after the feast of St. Ambrose the bishop, in 1417, made her will, and thereby gives her manor of Fring, for ten years, to her executors in trust, for pious uses; after that to Sibilla, her daughter and heir, provided

ded she behaved herself civilly, and did not disturb her executors; but if she died before the ten years were ended, then that manor to be sold, and the money to be disposed of in pious uses: and the lady Catherine was buried in the chancel of Plumstead Parva. She is said to be a daughter and heir of — Gymingham.

Sibilla brought this manor, by marriage, to sir Roger Boys: he died in 1421, and was buried in the priory of Ingham: Sibilla, his relict, was living in the 33d of Henry VI. and Robert Boys, esq. her son and heir, inherited it; on whose death sir Edmund Jenney, of Knatishall in Suffolk, became lord, in right of Catherine his wife, daughter and heir of Robert Boys. This came after to Frances Thurkell, who, in 1532, conveyed the manor of Illeys to Miles Hobart, esq. with the advowson of the church.

The other lordship, called Chaplain's, &c. was held in the 19th of Edward IV. by Robert Lethum: by his will, dated about this time, he devised it to his executor, John Loveday, esq. in trust to the use of his will; but John, his eldest son, dying, Chaplain's manor was sold, in the 21st of the said king, to James Hobart, esq. by deed, dated June 20, 1479, for 200l.

He was descended from an ancient family, lords of Tye-hall in Essex. John Hobart, esq. was living there in 1389; and John, his grandson, in 1426: his son married the daughter and heir of Atte-church, by whom he had Thomas Hobart, of Tye-hall, who by Eleanor his wife, daughter and heiress of John Taylor, alias Amfrey, was father of James, who was a younger son, born at Monks-Illey in Suffolk, student of the law at Lincoln's-inn, and

was reader there in Lent term 1447: his first wife was a niece of Walter Lyhert, bishop of Norwich, and sister and heir of John Lyhert: she died without issue about the year 1540. Henry VII. in 1486, made him his attorney-general, was of his privy-council, and, on the creation of Henry prince of Wales, in 1505 was knighted. By Margery his third wife, daughter of Peter Naunton, esq. of Letheringham in Suffolk, relict of John Dorward, esq. he had two sons, sir Walter, the eldest, of Hales-hall in Loddon, and Miles, who was lord of this town; also a daughter, Catherine. Sir James died at a great age, in the 15th year of Henry VIII. and was buried in the body or nave of the cathedral church of Norwich, on the north side, between the ninth and tenth pillars, (in a chapel formerly inclosed) as was Margery his widow, who presented to this church in 1517. His second wife was Dorothy, daughter of sir John Glemham, of Suffolk, by whom he had no issue living in the 14th of Edward IV.

Cambden says, "that he deserved well of the church, the country, and the commonweal;" and indeed he merited this excellent character, being a right good man, of great learning, wisdom, bounty and generosity, as his publick benefactions testify.— He died lord of many manors in Norfolk.

Miles Hobart, esq. second son of sir James, possessed his father's lordships in this town, and bought of Frances Thyrkell the manors of Illeys and Samchis, with messuages and lands in Plumstead Magna and Parva, Blofield, &c. anno 24th of Henry VIII. 1533. He married Helen, daughter and co-heir of John Blenerhasset, of Frenze in Norfolk, esq. and was buried in the chapel on the north side of this church. He had lordships, lands and tenements, in Plumstead,

Plumstead, South Walsham, Ranworth, Panxford, Hemlington, Langley, North Walsham, Edingthorpe, and Kirby-Bedon, and gave to his wife the lordship of Plumstead Parva, Witton, Brundall, in Norfolk, and the lordship of Heigham, in Melles, in Suffolk, for life: the lordship of Thwayte, in Norfolk, to John his second son. Ann, sister and co-heir with Hellen, married sir Henry Grey, knt. of Bedfordshire.

Thomas Hobart, esq. his eldest son and heir, married Audrey, daughter and heir of William Hare, esq. of Beeston in Norfolk, by whom he had two sons, Miles and Henry, and died March 26, 1560.

His widow re-married sir Edward Warner, lieutenant of the Tower of London, who dying November 7, 1565, she married William Blenerhasset, esq. and in 1572 they presented to this church. Thomas died also lord of Beeston in Norfolk, and Leyham in Suffolk.

Miles Hobart, esq. eldest son and heir of Thomas, was a minor at the death of his father; was living and lord in 1576 and 1595. Margaret, his wife, was daughter of sir Thomas Wodehouse, knt. of Waxham in Norfolk.

Henry, the second son, was lord chief justice of the Common-Pleas, lord of Blickling in Norfolk, from whom the right honourable the earl of Buckinghamshire descends.

Sir Thomas, son and heir of Miles, presented in 1613 to this church, and married Willoughby, daughter of sir Arthur Hopton, of Westwood and Blyborough in Suffolk.

Sir Miles succeeded his father sir Thomas, created knight of the Bath at the coronation of Charles I. Margaret, his wife, was daughter of Edward lord Dudley: it appears by a fine on his marriage, in the 4th of the said king, that he was then lord of this town, Witton, Brundall, &c. &c. The lady Margaret was buried in the church of St. Margaret's, Westminster.

In 1653, sir Miles mortgaged this lordship to Edward Mileham, gent. and a Mr. Dickson. In 1664, — Winter conveyed it to Roger Smith, an attorney, at Norwich; and Thomas Wife, of Norwich, was lord by the marriage of Smith's daughter.

William Hewar, esq. of Clapham in Surry, presented, as lord, to the church in 1701: and the lordship, with the patronage, was in Samuel Edgerley, clerk, &c. in 1716. In 1719, Hewar Edgerley Hewar, esq. was lord and patron; but in 1743, William and Level Blackburn, esqrs. and Ann Jackson, widow, presented.

Robert de Holmestede conveyed by fine, in the 43d of Edward III. to Walter Brown, of Norwich, a messuage, with one hundred and forty acres of land, six of meadow, thirty of pasture, thirty of heath, and five shillings rent, &c. in this town, Plumstead Magna and Witton.

The church is a rectory dedicated to St. Gervase, and was consolidated with Witton, Feb. 25, 1760.

In 1743, the Rev. Mr. Norwood Sparrowe was presented to this rectory by William Blackburn, esq. and Mrs. Ann Jackson. He died January 31, 1779. The church is in the gift of Mrs. Greaves, ^{relict}

relict of the late Mr. Peter Greaves, an eminent surgeon of the city of Norwich, and other the heirs of William Blackburn, esq. The late Mr. Sparrowe was one of the minor canons of the cathedral of Norwich; also perpetual curate of Great Plumstead, and of St. Gregory's and St. Peter's per Mountergate in the city of Norwich, and rector of Brundall and Winton in this hundred.

At the upper end of the chancel is a marble grave-stone, with the portraiture of a knight in compleat armour, at his feet a — couchant, in brafs.

*Sir Edward Warner, Knight, now resteth here, •
 Who lived to full 50 years and fower;
 His wifes also by armes you see appeare,
 What needeth then with words to blaze them o're,
 His vertues rare, would not be letten passe,
 Ne yet so worthy stale in silence synke,
 But who dares wright his golden gifts in braffe,
 Or blot his fame with rude and silly inke.
 In somme therefore, let this be sayd for all,
 With God and man he liveth and ever shall.*

Obijt. 7° die Novemb. A° Domi. 1565.

And the arms—Warner and Whetenhall; also Warner and Whetenhall, as before, impaling Brook lord Cobham, Cobham lord Cobham, Delapole, and Braybrook. Sir Edward's first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas lord Brook, of Cobham.

Against the north wall of the chancel is a fair raised tomb, with the figures of a man and a woman, without any inscription, or arms.

On

On a grave-stone by the north wall: *Orate pro anima Dni. Walteri Burford, quondam rectoris istius ecclesie. qui nova. fabricam istius Cancellij fieri fecit.*

On a grave-stone in the north chapel: *Here lyeth Thomas Hubbard, Esq; who departed this life the 26, day of March, in the year 1560, and left issue 2 sonnes and 2 daughters; and the arms of Hubbard, sable, an estoile or, between two flaunches ermine, impaling, gules, two bars and a chief indented, or, Hare,*

On another adjoining, Hubbard impaling Blenerhasset, without any inscription: this is in memory of *Miles Hobart, Esq; and Hellen his wife, daughter and co-heir of John Blenerhasset, Esq; of Frenze in the hundred of Dids.*

On a grave-stone in the church: *Here lyeth Alice Wayte, first wife to William Hare, Esq; and after to Robert Rugge, and mother to the lady Etheldred Warner, who dyed here in much virtue and quiet, 72 years, and departed hence to live for ever, the first day of July. A° Dni. 1566.*

Hobart bore quarterly these arms: in the first, Hobart; in the second, Atte-church; third, Taylor; fourth, Lyhert.

In the gallery of sir Thomas Hobart's house here, in 1614, were the following arms:—Hobart impaling Lyhert—Hobart impaling Naunton—Hobart and Heydon—Hobart and Fitz-Walter—Hobart and Blenerhasset with his quarterings, in the first Blenerhasset, in the second Loudham, also Kelvedon, Orton, &c.—Hobart and Fineaux—Samson and Hobart. Sir Thomas Samson married Catherine daughter

ter of sir James Hobart—Hobart and Hare—Wise-
man and Hobart—Blenerhasset and Tyndall—Fel-
brigg and Scales—Blenerhasset and Brayham—Ble-
nerhasset and Eshingham—Calthorpe and Blener-
hasset—Warner and Blenerhasset—Grey quartering,
Hastings and Valence, impaling Blenerhasset—War-
ner, impaling Marsh,

On a tablet hanging in the gallery of sir Thomas Hobart's house in this town, in 1614, are some lines in memory of Audrey wife of Thomas Hobart, esq. who died July 16, 1581.

On the top of this tablet—Hobart le Hart, Hare—Blenerhasset and Hare—Warner and Hare—Hobart and Wodehouse; and these mottos—*Qui perde la foy, a ne plus de perdre.*—*Go strait and fear not.*—*Deus providebit.*

POSTWICK, or POSWICK. This town, before the conquest, was divided into several parts, or fees, and held by different persons.

Catton was a beruite belonging to this town. At the survey Eudo, the fewer, was lord.

In king Edward's time the soc and fac belonged to the hundred, but Eudo held them at the survey.

This Eudo was fewer or steward of the Conqueror's household, who granted several fees, united into one lordship, to him, who was a Norman: how long Eudo enjoyed it does not appear; but it came we find to the descendants and heirs of his second brother, Hubert de Rye, governor of Norwich castle, whose grandson, Hubert de Rye, dying in the 18th of Henry II. without issue male, left two daughters

ters and co-heirs, Olivia and Isabel ; this last married Roger de Cressi.

Besides this lordship, Eudo had, by the gift of the Conqueror, in the hundred of Shropham, Rockland, Shropham, Roudham and Brettenham manors ; in Walsham hundred, Tunstall ; and in Humbleyard, Intwood.

Roger de Cressi had by Isabel two sons, both of whom died without issue. Henry III. granted this lordship, as an escheat, to William de Valentia and Joan his wife : William was brother, by his mother, to the king ; and Joan was sister and heir to her brother, William de Montchensi, a great baron of this realm.

In the 3d of Edward I. William de Valentia, earl of Pembroke, was found to have the lete and assize, &c. and was succeeded herein by his son, Adomare earl of Pembroke, who dying without issue, it descended to Joan, (one of the daughters and co-heirs of John Comyn, lord of Badenagh in Scotland, by Joan his wife, sister and co-heir of Adomare) who being married to David de Strabolgi, earl of Athol, had livery of it on March 27, in the 19th of Edward III. anno 1345, in which family it remained till on the death of David de Strabolgi, earl of Athol in Scotland, it came to his two daughters and co-heirs, Elizabeth and Philippa.

In the 47th of Edward III. Henry, earl of Northumberland, gave the king 760l. to have the custody of the castle of Mitford, &c. in Northumberland, and of the two daughters aforesaid of David.—Elizabeth was married to sir Thomas Percy ; and Philippa to sir Ralph Percy, two younger sons of Henry, earl of Northumberland.

On a division of the estate, this lordship was assigned to Philippa: she re-married sir John Halsham, of West Grinfield in Sussex; and in the 19th of Richard II. it was found that John, son of sir John, was heir in right of Philippa his mother.

Sir Hugh Halsham died possessed of it in the 20th of Henry VI. and Joan (daughter and heir of Richard Halsham his late brother) was his heir. This Richard had been a Celestine monk at Paris, but quitted his order, and married. Joan, their daughter and heir, brought it by marriage to John Lewknor, esq. of Gring in Sussex, with the lordships of Filby, Stifkey, West Lexham, and Holkham, and was sold by the feoffees of the said John Lewknor and Joan, to sir Jeff. Boleyn, of Blickling, alderman, &c. of London.

In the 34th of Henry VIII. sir James Boleyn had licence to alienate it to Henry Ward, esq. whose son Edward died possessed of it in 1583; and sir Randel Ward, bart. of Bixley, died lord, leaving Susan his sister and heir, who after married the earl of Rosebery in Scotland, as mentioned before.

The town of Postwick is situated on the banks of the Yare, about four miles from Norwich, down the river. Here, in a pleasant and shady grove, in the month of July, the society of the Gregorians held their annual venison dinner. They usually assembled at Sandlin's Ferry, and went down the river in barges and wherries, with music and colours flying: this they continued for many years, till the year 1764, when one of the farmers at Postwick, thinking himself aggrieved by these annual meetings, and his lands injured, or perhaps through pique, or not having had any satisfaction, wantonly put an end to this

this custom; since which time this venison feast has been held at their chapter-room, at the White Swan in St. Peter's of Mancroft, on the Monday in the aſſize-week. Thomas William Coke, esq. of Holkham, is the present Grand, 1779.

CATTON MANOR. Catun (mentioned as part of Eudo's fees at the survey) appears to have been a town nigh to Postwick; and was a beruite belonging to, and united to Postwick manor, held by Eudo. There was also another part (at that time) of the said town, which William de Beaufoe, bishop of Norwich, held as a lay-fee, granted to him by the Conqueror.

This part of Catton, which bishop Beaufoe held as a lay fee at his death, seems to have descended to his family; Ralph de Beaufoe, probably his son, whose daughter and heir, Agnes, brought it by marriage to Hubert de Rye, castellan or keeper of Norwich castle, whose descendant Hubert dying in the 18th of Henry II. his inheritance being divided between two daughters and co-heirs, Roger de Cressli was lord of this town in right of Isabel his wife, daughter of the said Hubert, and thus the lordships of Postwick and Catton were united.

The priory of Norwich had, in the reign of Henry II. an interest in this town. Hubert de St. Clair gave to Tancred the prior, by deed, his lordship in Postwick, with the appurtenances, held of the barony of Rye, which was confirmed by William Turbe, bishop of Norwich, and Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury; and in 1176, John, bishop of Norwich, had a bull from pope Alexander III. for lands and meadows which the prior of Ely bought of Lecelina and Beatrice, of the fee of Postwick.

wick. Thomas de Blomvile, bishop, confirmed to the priory the charter of bishop John de Grey, of tithes in Postwick.

In the 3d of Edward I. the prior had the lete of his tenants, &c. and in the tenth of that king, William Butt conveyed lands by fine to the priory; and in the 14th, the prior sued Hugh le Scot, &c. for lands, &c. In the 19th of that king, John, prior of St. Mary's of Walsingham, grants to Henry, prior of Norwich, five shillings rent here, late William Butt's.

Adomare de Valentia, earl of Pembroke, released the lands and tenements that the priory held of him from all payments, homages, &c. and made them free from all services, by deed, dated at Norwich, November 7, anno 3d Edward II. 1310.

After the dissolution of the priory, on the foundation of a dean and prebendaries, the priory manor was granted to that body, and so remains.

The church of Postwick is dedicated to All Saints, and was a rectory.

The prior of Norwich had a portion of tithe, valued at four marks. Eudo, the fewer, lord at the survey, with Rohai his wife, granted to Herbert, bishop of Norwich, and to all his clergy (*omni congregacioni*) of the holy Trinity church of Norwich, the tithe of Postwick in corn, money, and all things, as fully as they held it in the time of Serlon; and they beseech the bishop and clergy, for the love of God, to receive them and their ancestors, as benefactors, to partake of their prayers, &c. and on their deaths to keep their anniversaries in the same manner as they did for a brother or a sister.

The Rev. Mr. John Arnham, son of — Arnham, esq. an alderman of the city of Norwich, is the present rector, and had the presentation by the late sir Edward Ward, bart. of Bixley, 1740.

The church is a single pile, about twenty-four yards long, and eight broad, with a four-square tower, and covered with lead, but the chancel is tiled.

In the chancel lie several marble grave-stones in memory of the Wards.

Here under this marble stone lyeth the body of Jane daughter of Edward Ward, Esq; and Jane his wife, who was buried July 22d, 1666.—Here lyeth also the body of William the son of Edward Ward, of Bixley, Esq; and Jane his wife, buried January 30, 1669: and these arms, in a lozenge; quarterly, in the first and fourth, Ward; in the second and third, Harborn.

John son of Edward Ward, Esq; and Jane his wife, was buried Janu. 13, 1682, and Anne their daughter, April 22d, 1683.

On another, with the arms of Ward, impaling Rant:

Edward Ward de Bixley, in agro Norfolk, Baronettus, ecclesiæ Anglicanæ filius obseruantissimus, Regiæ majestatis subditus devotissimus, vir egregiæ indolis, eximiaæ virtutis, potestate tam civili, quam militari publica decoratus, in utraq; probatus, obt. 15 die Martii, Ao. Dni. 1685, Ætat. suæ 43, et sub hoc marmore a mæstissima conjugi posito dormit.

On

On a stone with a brass plate—*Orate p. aia. Hen. Clyfton quod. rectoris isti Eccle, qui obt. v° die Janu. 1500.*

In the church, a grave-stone for *Mr. Robert Moss, who died Feb. 8, 1700, in the 67th year of his age, and for Mary his wife, who died July 23, in the said year, aged 65.*—We take this to be in memory of the father and mother of Dr. Robert Moss, dean of Ely, &c. who was born in this town.

Near the font : *Here lyeth the body of Sarah wife of William Moss, who died Feb. 9, 1706, aged 28.*—Near to the south door : *Orate p. aiab; Willi. Thrykyll, et Cecilie uxor; ej; qui ob. 23° die Martis, 1501.*

SOUTHWOOD. This town occurs under the invasion, or seizures of the lands at the conquest, made without any title or grant from the Conqueror. When Ralph earl of Norfolk was deprived for rebellion, it was accounted for among the king's manors. At the survey, Rabel, the artificer or carpenter possessed it, Thorpe, and Limpenhoe, in this hundred. He had invaded, or seised on it, without any lawful grant from the Conqueror.

In the 3d of Richard I. anno 1192, Richard de Dunham had right in 10l. land here, and in Limpenhoe. Roger Fitz-Peter, and Henry de Eynsford, had an interest herein, in the reign of Henry III. held of the manor of Mileham, by the grant of William I. or purchase of Alan, son of Flaald, lord of Mileham; Richard, son of William de Southwood, Walter Pye, and Nicholas Hobart, had a quarter of a fee of the manor of Mileham. The earl of Gloucester had also a lordship in the reign of Edward I.

Gerard de Eynsford was lord, in the 9th of Edw. II. of the manor of Mileham ; and the heirs of Gerard in the 20th of Edward III. of the earl of Arundel ; and John Steywar held the quarter of a fee of the said manor.

Dionysia de Clere possessed it in the 3d of Henry IV. and in the family of Clere it remained, in the reign of Philip and Mary ; and sir Edward Clere was lord and patron in the reign of queen Elizabeth.

From the Cleres it came to the Berneys, of Reedham ; after that to sir James Edwards, and to sir Lambert Blackwell, and Carteret Leathes, esq.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Edmund, and was consolidated with Limpenhoe in 1697.

The Rev. Thomas Morden was presented to this rectory, with the vicarage of Limpenhoe, by Carteret Leathes, esq. 1735.

STRUMPSHAW. At the survey Godric, as steward for the Conqueror, had the care of a lordship.

The antient family of de Danmartin were early enfeoffed of this lordship, by a grant from the crown. Odo de Danmartin held it in the reign of Henry II. Basilia, wife of Odo, gave, in the 1st year of that king, an account of sixty marks of silver to have her dower : and Odo, son of Odo, paid one hundred marks for his father's lands at Mendlesham in Suffolk, &c. It was a numerous family. In the said reign flourished Aubrey, Manaffer, William, and Odo de Danmartin ; and in the 12th of king John, Odo held one fee in this town.

In

In the book of Inquisitions called *Tesler de Nevill*, in the custody of the king's remembrancer, Odo held the same by one fee, said to be the king's demeain, and given to Odo, his ancestor, by Henry I. A mandate was granted in the 9th of Henry III. to the sheriff of Norfolk, to deliver to sir John de Wanton all the land belonging to his wife, Alice, sister and heir of Odo de Danmartin, deceased; the king having received his homage: and a mandate also to the sheriff of Suffolk and Surry. Alice, after the death of sir John, about the 16th of the said king, re-married Roger de Clare: on his death, she gave two hundred marks to have the custody of his lands, and the marriage of his heir.

Galiena de Danmartin granted by fine, in the 41st of Henry III. to Hugh de Mundeville, the manor of Mendlesham; and Hugh, at the request of Galiena, granted it to Nicholas Lewknor, he paying thirty shillings per ann. for life, in exchange for lands in Bragging in Hertfordshire, and Taxted in Essex, granted to Hugh.

In the said year, Gerard Evermere, and Felicia his wife, released to Stephen de Strumpshaw all their right in a marsh called Deftholm, quit of the heirs of Felicia. This Stephen had also an interest in this lordship, which seems to be divided about this time; and in the 3d of Edw. I. Stephen was found to have the lete, assise, &c. of his tenants; and in the following year sir Stephen de Strumpshaw, and Margery his wife, conveyed the manor of Strumpshaw, with lands in Reedham and Tunstall, and the advowson of St. Peter's church of North Burlingham, (reserving to sir Stephen and his wife their lives therein) to William lord Bardolph, and Julian

his wife. This family of the Strumpshaws most probably took their name from the town.

The family of Danmartin had still an interest in the lordship of Strumpshaw; Hugh son of Odo de Danmartin had a lordship here and in Mendlesham in the 9th of Edward I. He was master of the king's mint, and died without issue.

Sir John de Botetourt, on the death of Hugh, had livery of this lordship, and of Mendlesham, in the 30th of Edward I. in right of Maud sister of Odo. Sir John was admiral of the Norfolk coast in the 23d of that king, with whom he was in high favour; and was appointed, with Maud his wife, to attend at Ipswich on the king's daughter Elizabeth, with John earl of Holland, on Monday the feast of the Epiphany. In the 29th of that king, he was one of those great lords who sent to the pope a letter, asserting, that the kingdom of Scotland was not of his fee, and denied him all jurisdiction in temporal matters; and in the 33d, as one of the king's counsellors, gave answer to the bishop of Byblis, *in partibus infidelium*, that the preferring him to the priory of Coldingham in Scotland, by the pope's bull of provision, would be to the prejudice of the king's crown and dignity, and therefore not grantable to him.

In the 4th of Edward II. the office of engraver of the dies for coin was in this family, and sold by sir John to William Latimer. About this time the manor came to the lords Bardolph.

This manor belonged at one time to William, son of sir John Philip, of Dennington in Suffolk, who married Joan daughter and co-heir of Thomas lord Bardolph,

Bardolph, in the 9th of Henry V. and by virtue of this marriage was himself created lord Bardolph, in the 16th of Henry VI. being at that time lord chamberlain to the king: his lady surviving him and having the fee of this estate, left it to William son of viscount Beaumont; and from the Beaumonts it came to sir William Arundel, lord Maltravers, and Ann his wife. Henry earl of Arundel conveyed it to queen Mary, &c. on January 2, in the 2d and 3d of Philip and Mary. The queen granted it to sir Nicholas Hare, who died in Chancery-lane, London, October 3d following, 1557, seised of it, and of the abbey of Brusyard in Suffolk, leaving Catherine his lady, who died Nov. 23, in the same year; also three sons, Michael, Robert and William, and Ann a daughter, married to Thomas Rouse, esq. In the 4th of Elizabeth, Robert Hare, esq. was lord, and clerk of the pells, and died s. p.

In the 5th of James I. April 1, sir Ralph Hare aliened it to sir Thomas Berney, of Reedham, in which family it remained, till sold with Reedham, &c. to sir James Edwards, and after to sir Lambert Blackwell, and now Carteret Leathes, esq. is lord.

The bishop of Norwich's lordship of Bradeston extended into this town, and was held by the Bredestons of that fee, from whom it came to the Cawstons or Cawstons, the Carbonels and Berneys, and so conveyed to sir James Edwards, bart. by chancery, about 1700, on the sale of the estate of Richard Berney, esq.

In 1740, sir Lambert Blackwell's heirs possessed the whole town, and were patrons; and in 1785, Carteret Leathes, esq.

In this manor was the right and patronage of the church. The church is a rectory dedicated to St. Peter.

There is a remarkable wind-mill in this town, supposed to stand upon the highest ground in Norfolk: it is seen at a vast distance, and overlooks most of the neighbouring hundreds: from it Yarmouth, and Lowestoffe in Suffolk, are easily distinguished, and it has a full command of the city of Norwich, not being distant above seven miles. Being situated near Buckenham-Ferry, there is a delightful view of the river Yare, mæandering through the country till it falls into Breydon broad near Yarmouth. The prospect from this wind-mill is the finest *coup d'œil* in the county of Norfolk, and the mill itself, when the sails are going, is a beautiful object as far as it can be seen.

In 1764, the Rev. Mr. Nelson was presented to this rectory by Carteret Leathes, esq. of Bury St. Edmund's.

About the 24th of Henry III. William de Strumphshaw gave to the use of the almoner of the Holy Trinity church of Norwich, his whole messuage and lands, and homages, with the advowson of Strumphshaw church.

THORPE next Norwich, called Torp in the survey. Stigand, archbishop of Canterbury, was lord of it in the reign of the Confessor, in his own right, and held it as a lay-fee; on his deprivation, the Conqueror seized on it, and William de Noiers took care of it, or farmed it at the survey, as steward to him.

Ralph

Ralph (late) earl of Norfolk, had a moiety, with thirty acres of land, and the soc was in Stigand.

After earl Ralph forfeited, who was lord of this town, and had the soc and fac, Robert Blund farmed it of the king, as William Noiers did, when it was charged and valued at 12l. one seftary of honey, and two thousand herrings; at the survey at 30l. quit-rent.

After Stigand's deprivation, Ralph de Waiet, alias Guader, &c. being made earl of Norfolk, in 1075 had a grant of this lordship, and on his rebellion it came again to the crown, where it remained till Henry I. granted it, on the 3d of September, 1101, to Herbert the bishop, and the monks of the church of the holy Trinity of Norwich, and their successors for ever, with all its appurtenances.

The aforesaid king, by his mandate to all his barons, French and English, of Norfolk and Suffolk, commands, that Herbert the bishop, and all the church aforesaid, should be free from all gelts and payments, aids, scots, &c. as he himself held it. And in a precept, dated at Roan in Normandy, to his sheriffs, &c. of Norfolk, commands, that the bishop have free warren here, and in Eton, and that no one should hunt, &c. herein, without his licence, on the forfeiture of 10l.

In the see it remained till the exchange made between Henry VIII. and bishop Rugg, of lands, &c. belonging to this see, &c. which were granted to the crown by act of parliament, on February 4, anno 27th of Henry VIII.—The town of Blofield was the head of the barony.

On this exchange, this lordship came to the crown, with the advowson of the rectory, the bishop's house or palace here.

By an indenture under the great seal of England, dated January 1, in the 35th of Henry VIII. this manor was granted to Thomas duke of Norfolk for life, remainder to Henry earl of Surry, his son and heir, and the lady Frances his wife, during her life, and their heirs, to be held by the 20th part of a fee, and the rent of 3l. 1s. 8d. per ann. except 10s. for the Reeve's fee. On the top of this grant* was the king's mark, and signed underneath by the duke of Norfolk, the lord Russell, Richard Southwell and Walter Henby, officers of the court of Augmentation.

Earl Henry being afterwards attainted and executed, left Thomas his son and heir, who was duke of Norfolk in queen Mary's reign; but being restored in blood only, and the countess of Surry surrendering it in her widowhood to Edward VI. the said king, on June 25, in his first year, anno 1547, granted it to sir Thomas Paston, with the advowson, a fold-course, lands and tenements in this town, Plumstead Magna and Parva, &c, with the toll and profits

* The grant of this king Henry I. is a curious piece of antiquity, beautifully wrote in Latin, made by him, as he declares, "for his own soul, the soul of his father and mother, of king William his brother, of all his ancestors and successors, in the presence of queen Maud, daughter of the king of Scotland, and the illustrious men, ecclesiastical and secular, of all England, whose names are underwritten, that his gift may for ever remain; confirmed with the sign of the holy cross, and corroborated with the seal of his royal dignity, in the year of our Lord 1101, on the 3d of the nones of September."

profits of Magdalen and Thorpe wood, late the bishop of Norwich's; and the said king gave to the countess the lordship of Earl's Soham in Suffolk.

Edward Paston, son of sir Thomas, was lord in 1571, and his grandson Clement was living in 1643, in which year, November 7, in a court at Norwich of justices and aldermen, it was agreed, that leave should be given to William Kettleburgh to buy of Mr. Clement Paston, wood and timber at Thorpe wood and grounds, in respect of the extreme scarcity of firing for the poor in this winter time; and the said William Kettleburgh hath undertaken to deliver to the poor of the city ten thousand well-sized billets this winter, at twenty shillings per thousand; and five thousand two-band wood, in faggots at three-pence per faggot; and the committee are content that he should pay the money, upon the bargain, to Mr. Paston, whose estate seems, at this time, to be sequestered.

From this family it came, by purchase, to Rowland Dee, merchant, of London, who presented as lord to this church in 1670: his son, Duncan Dee, esq. inherited it, was serjeant at law, presented in 1706, and died May 30, 1720, but sold it before his death to Matt. Howard, esq. of Hackney in Middlesex, and in 1742 he was lord and patron.

The original grant of this manor, in 1728, was in Matt. Howard, esq. and a copper-plate was engraved from it by Mr. Sturt.

THE PRIOR'S, now DEAN and CHAPTER'S MANOR.
Bishop Herbert, lord of this town, by the grant of the manor above-mentioned, on founding the priory at Norwich, gave the best part of it to the said convent,

vent, and kept the least part of it for himself and successors, which division he thought necessary; otherwise his frequent coming to Norwich, as he had no land there, would be very troublesome; and he gave them for that part of Thorpe which he kept, the lordship of Gnatyndon, and the church of Thornham, both in Smithdon hundred, with the land of Thurston, and a caracute of land at Gaywood.

In 1154, pope Adrian IV. by his bull, confirmed to the prior a moiety of Thorpe wood, and all its profits, except the demeane and right of hunting, which was in the bishop; and in 1156 he confirmed the heath, with all its wood, as bishop William Turbe had granted it, there being a dispute between John of Oxford, the bishop, and the priory, concerning a mill in Thorpe, which was farmed of the bishop at twenty shillings per ann. the mill and ground were allowed to belong to the fee, with the water-course, in the 5th year of his pontificate.

William de Raleigh, bishop, and Simon the prior, agreed in 1286, that the part of Thorpe wood covered with oaks, should be divided into two equal parts, and that the part nearest to the manor-house of Thorpe, should be to the bishop, and that the other part nearest to the bishop's bridge should be to the prior, saving to the bishop his right in the said bridge; and that the heath should be divided into three parts; the bishop to have two parts nearest to him, and the prior one part, and, for this agreement, the bishop grants to the prior all his right in a moiety of Plumstead wood; also free warren in the 3d part of the heath aforesaid; and if he had a desire to inclose and cultivate the same, he would assist and support him in so doing. Dated at Gaywood, 8th of November. By this grant of free warren, the prior

prior had a manor, and so gave rise to, and was the original of the prior's lordship, now called Pockthorpe, and in the dean and chapter of Norwich at this time.

That the heath here was remarkable for plenty of timber and underwood, appears from a *comptus* of William de Kirkeby, prior in 1283, wherein 37s. 4d. was received for underwood. In 1315, we find bark sold for 9s 11d. In 1335, in timber, bark and faggots, received 6l. 16s. 9d.

The heath was called Mousehold; and, besides sheep-walks, here was a net-herd for the great cattle, and a swine-herd, who had 26s. 8d. per ann. wages.

In 1428, the temporalities of the priory were valued at 3l. 8s. 2d. per ann. and was called the Cellarer's manor; the lete of affise, &c. belonged to it.

On the dissolution of the priory, which was surrendered to Henry VIII. April 1, 1538, by William Castleton, prior, &c. on May 2, in the said year, the king new founded it for a dean, six prebendaries, &c. and appointed Castleton the first dean; and the dean and chapter of Norwich holds it at this time.

Thorpe is delightfully situated on a hanging hill, which commands the city of Norwich, and the meadows below, through which the river winds to Yarmouth, and on which are constantly paffing lighters, boats and wherries. Being two miles only from Norwich, it has become of late the residence of opulent manufacturers, several of whom have erected extensive buildings in it, and laid out spacious gardens: indeed it is a village, whose situation would admit of being ornamented with the finest hanging gardens in Europe.

Europe. The village of Thorpe is sometimes called the Richmond of Norfolk, and may vie with the proudest and most admired summer retreats in all England. Mr. Vere, Mr. Ives, Mr. Goss, the Rev. Mr. Humphrey, and Mr. Boycatt, have each a handsome villa here.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew.

In the chancel lies a marble grave-stone, *In memory of Mrs. Mary Chapman, relict of Samuel Chapman, late rector. She founded the house called Bethel, in Norwich, for poor lunatics, and died in 1724.*

This worthy rector left by his will to the minister of Thorpe, for a sermon to be preached annually on January 6, 13s. 4d. to the parish clerk 20d. and to the poor in bread, 9s. 2d. with a salary for a school-master. He was also a benefactor to Corpus Christi college, Cambridge: gave to the two hospitals in Norwich 200l. to each, and to the augmentation of the church of Metfield, a donative in Suffolk, ordering his tenements and copyhold lands there to be sold, and (which came to above 520l.) to be laid out in freehold lands, with a convenient house for the use of the minister. He lies buried in the chancel of this church, under a black marble, thus inscribed: *Samuel Chapman, an humble admirer of the grace and wisdom of God, in a crucified Jesus, fell asleep in that Jesus, the hope of glory, the resurrection of life, Jan. 29, 1700.*

In 1731 the king presented, and in 1753 the Rev. Richard Humphrey was presented to this rectory by Thomas Vere, esq.

The

The perpetual advowson of this church was granted by Richard, bishop of Norwich, and confirmed by the prior and convent, to Thomas Godsalve, register of the diocese, and his heirs, on May 1, 1535, In the church was the guild of St. Andrew.

On Mounthold heath, about a mile from the hamlet of Pockthorpe, to the north-east, was a chapel dedicated to St. Catherine, said to have been an ancient parochial chapel about the time of the conquest, and afterwards re-dedicated to the honor of St. William, commonly called St. William in the Wood, from a boy that was crucified by the Jews at Norwich, in 1137; a cell of monks belonging to Norwich priory being near to it, and was much frequented by pilgrims, but at the dissolution was demolished.

Near to this was the chapel of the Translation of St. Thomas a Becket, archbishop of Canterbury.—Here was also the chapel of St. Michael, which stood on the brow of the hill, on the north side of the road, just out of Bishopsgate; its ruins being still visible, and commonly called Kett's (the rebel) castle, and was founded by bishop Herbert.

There was also a priory dedicated to St. Leonard, standing opposite to St. Michael's chapel, built by bishop Herbert as a cell to Norwich priory, now in ruins. At the dissolution it came to the crown, and Henry VIII. granted it to Thomas duke of Norfolk: his son, Henry earl of Surry, built a sumptuous house on the site, where he lived, and was called Mount-Surry, and Surry-house. On his attainder it came to the crown; and in 1562, queen Elizabeth granted it, with the prior's portable wood, to Thomas duke of Norfolk, who having also forfeited

feited it, James I. conferred it, in 1702, on Thomas Howard, earl of Suffolk.

WITTON. Part of this town is accounted for under the hundred of Walsham, and part under that of Blofield. On the conquest it was seized on, and Godric took care of it for the Conqueror: the soc was in the king's hundred of Blofield, and was held of the king at the survey by Ulchetel, by grant.

Ulchetel had also the lordships of Rushworth in Guiltcross hundred, and of Lerling in Shropham hundred.

Ulchetel's lordships came after to the crown, and both of them so remained, but part of them was granted to the family of de Vetula, alias de Veile, by Henry I. In the *Roll de Dominab*, in the custody of the king's remembrancer, it appears, that Richard de Veile had considerable lands here, &c. and died before the 30th of Henry II. leaving Roger his son, and five daughters, in the custody of Etima his mother, daughter of Guy de Botetourt, and Thomas Basset his uncle. In the 2d of king John, Roger de Veile held it with Fishley, by the service of being the king's falconer. Thomas de Veile was lord in the 17th of Henry III.

In the 3d of Edward I. John de Veile was lord; and in the 23d of that king John his son had a messuage, forty-eight acres of land, &c. and died seized of it in that year, when it descended to Reginald de Dunham; and in the 31st of the same reign, Reginald was found to hold it by grand serjeanty, by keeping the king's hawks.

Peter Buckskin was lord in the 9th of Edward II. and in the 18th of Edward III. conveyed it to Roger Hardegrey, citizen of Norwich; and in the 20th of that king Roger held it by the fourth part of a fee.

Robert Letham, esq. was lord and patron of the church in 1480: by his will, he gives his manor here and advowson to Margaret his wife, remainder to Robert his second son, who dying a minor, it was in the following year sold by Richard Southwell, esq. feoffee, and confirmed by John Loveday, esq. executor of Robert Letham, to James Hobart, esq. with a manor in Plumstead: he presented in 1508.—Miles, his second son, was lord, and presented in 1531. In this family it remained till mortgaged by sir Miles Hobart, knt. about 1653, as in Plumstead Parva.

In 1700, William Hewar, esq. was lord and patron; as was one of the said name in 1742.

Nicholas le Boteler had a lordship in the reign of Henry III. which came to Adam de Brancaster, and William de St. Clere, in right of their wives, heirs to Nicholas.

In 1272, St. Clere sold his part to William de Heveningham, and Brancaster's part was sold to Guy Botetourt; and sir Guy Botetourt was returned as lord in the 9th of Edward II.

In the 7th of Richard II. licence was granted to Margaret, countess of Norfolk, to alien to the nuns minoresses of Brufyard in Suffolk, the lordship of Witton, to pray for the soul of Ann, daughter of the said Margaret, deceased, late countess of Pembroke,

60 BLOFIELD HUNDRED.

broke, and for her own state whilst living, and her soul when deceased. But, in the 12th of the said king, another patent was granted to exchange for this manor, lands, &c. in Cambridgeshire.

There was also another considerable manor in the fee of Norwich, held by the family of Bredeston, lords of Bradeston, (which was also held of that fee) and extended into this town: From the Bredestons, it came to the Catestons, or Cawstons, and from them to the Carbonels, as in Bradeston, &c. and the patronage of the church was in this manor.

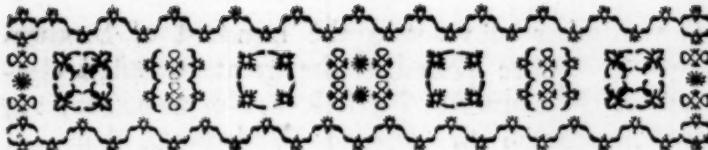
The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Margaret, and was consolidated with Little Plumstead, *Feb. 25, 1760.*

The Rev. Mr. Norwood Sparrowe was presented to this rectory in 1743, by William Blackbourn, esq. and Ann Jackson, widow. He deceased Jan. 31, 1779. The patronage is in Mrs. Greaves and others.

John Dade of Witton, by his will, dated in 1505, was buried in this church; orders, "That the old roof of this church be taken down, the walls help-ed, and a new roof to be made after the pattern of Little Plumstead; and, because I am not able to lead it, I will, that it be reeded, and made at my cost."

Besides the towns here mentioned, there was, as appears from the book of Doomsday, a town called Mora, in this hundred; but where this town stood, is at this time unknown.

† In page 16, line 6, of this hundred, for — Birch, esq. read James Burkin, esq.



THE
HISTORY
OF
NORFOLK.



Hundred of BROTHERCROSS.

THIS, with the hundred of Gallow, was possessed by the crown, till Henry I. gave them to William earl Warren and Surrey, to be held of the castle of Norwich, paying two marks per ann.

It appears by the book of Doomsday, that the towns of these two hundreds are now strangely intermixed; many that were then in Brothercross hundred, are now in Gallow, viz. Rainham, the most southern town, at this time in Gallow, was then in Brothercross hundred; and Burnham-Thorpe, with both the Creaks, which are at this time in Brothercross, were in Gallow hundred.

A

The

HUNDRED OF

The number of votes in the hundred of Brothercross, that were polled at the great contested election for the county of Norfolk, at Norwich, May 23, 1768, between sir Armine Wodehouse, bart. of Kimberley, Thomas de Grey, esq. of Merton, sir Edward Astley, bart. of Melton-Constable, and Wenman Coke, esq. of Holkham, were as follows:

	W.	G.	A.	C.
Burnham-Depdale	-	3	0	0
Burnham-Norton	-	4	0	0
Burnham-Overy	-	6	1	1
Burnham-Thorpe	-	3	0	0
Burnham-Ulph and Sutton	0	1	3	4
Burnham-Westgate	5	12	4	12
North Creak	-	2	0	0
South Creak	-	15	4	6
	38	48	12	23

The hundred of Brothercross is bounded on the west by Smithdon, on the north by the British ocean, on the east by the hundred of North Greenhoe, and on the south by the hundred of Gallow. It is a fine open champain country, bordering upon the sea: the soil in general rich and fertile, and the land lets from ten to fourteen shillings an acre. The most distinguishable buildings in it are,

Burnham-Westgate,—Pinkney Wilkinson, esq.
M. P.

Creak Abbey,—late Thomas Powditch, esq.

On the descent from Docking to the Burnhams is a remarkable fine landscape: the several towns of Burnham interspersed below, with a view of Mr. Wilkinson's house, and an extensive prospect of the British

British ocean, form together to the mind a *coup d'œil*, truly delightful and striking.

This hundred is about nine miles in length, from south to north, and four from east to west; contains nine parishes, which, with seventeen parishes in Gallow, constitutes the deanry of Burnham, in the arch-deaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich.

Brothercros seems to take its name from a croſs, placed at the ford or paſs over the river at Burnham, which river, in the Saxon age, might be called the Brother, as Brotherton, a town in Yorkshire; and thus Broughton, a town on a brook.

BURNHAM-DEPDALE, ſo called from its ſcīte (called alſo Deepden) in a great valley: the principal lordſhip was, we find, at the time of the ſurvey, in the abbey of Ramsey, who held it in king Edward's reign.

BRANCASTER HALL. Wulgiva, wife of Ailwin, duke of the Eaſt Angles, gave this manor, with Brancaster, &c. to the abbot of Ramsey on his found- ing the faid monastery in 969, and king Edgar, and Edward the Confessor confirmed the faid grant with many privileges, as may be ſeen in Brancaster.

Reinald, or Reginald, abbot, by his deed, *sans date*, but in the reign of Henry I. grants to Bofeline and Alfnia his wife, the land of Ulf, in Depedene, (now called Depdale) on this condition, that they become the abbot's liege people.

“ Reinaldus Dei gratia abbas Ramesiæ preposito
“ et hominibus de Branceſtre et omnibus viciniſ
“ Franciſ et Angliſ ſalut.—Sciatis me dediſſe ter-

"ram Ulf in Depedene (hodie Depedale) huic Bo-
" felino et uxori ejus Alfniæ ita bene sicut homines
" de Brancestre illum testificant verum habuisse, ea
" conditione quod effecti sunt homines liges."—
This shows that lords of manors had their lieges,
who were bound and sworn to pay allegiance to
them.

DEPDALE Manor, another lordship in this town,
was possessed by Roger Bigot, ancestor to the earls of
Norfolk of that name.

In the 33d of Henry VIII. John Fincham, esq.
was found to die possessed of it, as appears from
the escheat rolls, and William Fincham his grand-
son died lord in the 14th of Elizabeth. After this
it was possessed by Charles Cornwallis, esq. who
married the sister and heir of William. This Charles
Cornwallis was second son of sir Thomas Cornwallis,
of Brome-Hall in Suffolk, privy-councillor to queen
Mary.

Afterwards it was purchased by Stephen Soame,
esq. who was a knight, and lord mayor of London
in 1598, and John Soame, esq. was lord in 1656;
from the Soames it came to John Harris, esq. who
presented to the church in 1686, and Elizabeth
Money in 1749.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a
rectory.

The church has a nave, a north isle, and a chan-
cel covered with lead; in a window the arms of
Calthorpe, impaling gules, three cups argent Argent-
ton. Here is an old font, standing on five pilasters,
a round tower, with one bell.

The

The present rector is the Rev. Henry Crowe, who was presented to the living by Mrs. Catherine Henley of Docking in 1766.

BURNHAM-NORTON, so called from its scite, being north of the other Burnhams.

POLSTED-HALL MANOR, (of which see at large in Burnham-Westgate) extended into this town, and took its name from the Polsteds, lords of it.

To the church of Burnham-Norton belonged two medieties or rectories, in the reign of Edward I.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, and stands on a hill about a mile distant from the town, has a nave, a north and south isle, (the church is decayed) covered with lead, and in a round tower there is one bell, on which, *Virginis Egregie vocor Campana Marie.*

On the pulpit are painted the four doctors (as they were called) of the church, viz. St. Augustine, St. Ambrose, St. Gregory, and St. Jerome.

On the screen, *Orate p. aiab; Willi. Groom, et Johanne Consortis sue qui islam fabricam fecerunt depingi in honore — Anno Dmi. Millo. cccc. LVIII. quor. aiab; propit. —.* Underneath are the portraiture of eight saints, and over the heads of St. Ethelbert and the Virgin Mary,

*Rex Ethelberte, mereamur cœlica p. Te,
Nos cum prole pia benedicat Virgo Maria.*

In the south isle is a gravestone in memory of Lydia Thurlow, wife of John Thurlow, gent. who died

May 31, 1676. One in memory of John Thurlow, gent. born December 24, 1619, died March 22, 1684; also for Mr. William Thurlow, uncle to the said John, who died in 1630, and Bridget Thurlow, aunt to John, who died 1655, lineally descended of the Thurlows of Burnham-Ulph. Of this family the present lord Thurlow, lord high-chancellor of Great Britain, is lineally descended.

The present rector is the reverend Edmund Nelson, presented by the late Horatio Walpole, esq. in 1755, who was next year created lord Walpole.

In this town was a priory of Carmelites, or white friars, dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, and founded by sir William Calthorpe, and sir Ralph Hemenhale, in 1241, anno 26 Henry III. but it is more probable in the beginning of the reign of king Edward I. In the 26th of that king they had a patent granted them,

BURNHAM-OVERY, that is, over the Water or River.

VEWTRE'S MANOR. This was a beruite, or part of the lordship of Burnham-Westgate, which was in the crown, and farmed by Godric at the time of the compiling of Doomsday-Book, and granted by king William II. to William de Albini, his butler, ancestor to the earls of Arundel.

Peter Lombard, esq. was lord in 1740; on whose death it came, by the marriage of Mary his daughter and co-heir, to the honorable Horace Walpole, esq. afterwards lord Walpole of Woolterton.

The scite of this manor was in the south part of Overy-street, alias Church-gate, or East-gate, beginning

ning at the severall fishery of Vewtres, was well built, inclosed with a stone wall, and contained about three acres, and a severall fishery belonged to it.

POMFRET'S MANOR, was formerly a part of the manor of Vewtre's, and taken out of it on the division of it.

Sir Philip Parker was lord of it in the 7th of Charles I. and one of the same name had livery of it about the 20th of Elizabeth.—The leet fee of this manor to the lord of the hundred was gd.—Peter Lombard, esq. in 1740, and the right honorable Horatio lord Walpole is the present lord.

HALL-CLOSE MANOR. The Calthorpes had an interest or lordship in this town in the reign of Henry the 3d.

Peter Lombard, esq. was lord in 1740, and it came, on his death, to the honorable Horatio lord Walpole, by the marriage of his daughter and co-heir.

WALSINGHAM PRIORY MANOR, at the dissolution came to the crown; John Watts farmed it, with the rectory of St. Clements, at 10l. per ann. in 1590; and in the reign of king Charles I. the fee-farm rent of it was 16l: 19s. 11d: $\frac{1}{4}$ besides 1l. 17s. 3d. $\frac{3}{4}$ profits of court, per ann.

The manor of Burnham-Lathes was in Thomas Thurlow, with the rectory of the church of St. Clement.

PETERSTON PRIORY, or HOSPITAL. This priory was in the parish of St. Clement's, of Burnham-Overy.

It appears that there was a controversy between the canons of Walsingham, who had the church of St. Clement's of Burnham appropriated to them, and Thomas, prior of the hospital of St. Peter de Petra, in Burnham, That whereas the prior and convent of Walsingham had granted to the master and brothers of the hospital a free chantrey in their chapel, or oratory, at Burnham, with right of burial in their church-yard, within the parish of Burnham St. Clement's, for the brotherhood, for which they were to pay a mark of silver yearly to the prior: on the refusal of the payment it was recovered, with the arrears thereof, against the master and brethren aforesaid. The lands belonging to the prior of Walsingham, called Crab-hall lands, were to pay 25s. in the name of a relief, and the prior to do homage for them to the earl of Arundel, containing eighty acres, valued at 26s. 8d. and were bought, or given to them, by sir Edmund de Reynham, knt,

In the 28th of Henry VI. the prior of Walsingham had a grant of the scite, or place of the priory, or hospital of Peterston, in Burnham St. Clement's, so that it was united to the aforesaid priory by a grant of the king, and confirmed by the bishop of Norwich.

Peterston seems to have been an hamlet to Burnham St. Clement's, and was charged separately for its tenths, at 2l. 4s. out of which 14s. were deducted.

At the general dissolution of religious houses it came to the crown, and was granted April 11, in the 4th year of Edward VI. to Thomas, bishop of Norwich, and his successors, and is held of that see by lease.

It belonged, as Spelman says, about the end of queen Elizabeth's reign, to Richard Manser, gent. who had much suit and quarrel with Firmine Gray about a lease of it, and died without issue, disposing of it by will to Roger Manser, his brother, who was deprived of it by —— Armiger, of North Creak, who married Richard Manser's sister, and left it to William Armiger, his son and heir, who sold it, to secure the title, to the lord chief justice Coke.

WINDHAM PRIORY MANOR. William le Vewtre, lord of Burnham, granted to this monastery six acres of land and an half, for the soul's health of king Henry I. and of William his butler, and of William earl of Arundel, his lord, with the homages of his men, and Matthew, son of William de Burnham, gave them lands, and a portion of tithe. The church of St. Clement's belonged to them, valued in 1428 at nine marks per ann.

John Thurlow, gent. of this parish, had an estate herein, and dying July 7, 1583, left by Amia his wife, Thomas his son and heir, who dying April 10, 1618, left by Dinah his wife, (afterwards re-married to Nicholas Smith) John Thurlow, gent. who by an inquisition taken at Norwich, July 23, in the 7th of Charles I. was found to die feized of two messuages and thirty-four acres of land in this town, August the 10th, 1631, held of sir Philip Parker, of his manor of Pomfrets, by fealty, of nineteen acres of marsh land, held of the king, in capite, and of two messuages and thirty acres in Burnham, Burnham-Thorpe, &c. John was found to be his son and heir, then an infant, by Anne his wife, daughter of —— Salter.

On the 19th of November, 1664, sir Edward Byshe granted a patent to John Thurlow, of Burnham

ham-Overy, a great traveller many years in several parts of Europe, America, Africa, &c. for these arms ; —azure, a Jacob's staff between three stars, or ; crest, an anchor erect, gules, the cable or.

The portion of tithes abovementioned came afterwards to Nicholas Mynne, of Little Walsingham, who gave it to Caius college in Cambridge, and for which a yearly rent of sixteen quarters of barley is paid.

The church of Burnham-Overy is dedicated to St. Clement : churches so dedicated may be observed for the most part to be always seated near some water, river, or sea.

The church is built in a conventional manner, the steeple being between the nave, or body, and the chancel ; and has also a south aisle, which with the nave is covered with lead, and the chancel is tiled, and in the tower, which is four-square, is one bell.

In the church lie several grave-stones in memory of the Thurlows. One with a brass plate, *Pray for the soule of Katheryn Thurlow, whych dyed in the yere of our Lord 1517.* —*Pray for the soule of Thomas Thylowe, which dyed in 1516.* —One, *In memory of Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Thylow, of Thorpe, Gent. who dyed Jan. 29, 1678, and buried by Thomas his grandfather; she dyed Nov. 30, 1679, and left only two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth.*

On a north pillar by the steeple, a monument, *In memory of Ann, the wife of Robert Blyford, Gent. who dyed March 10, 1672, aged 35. Also of Robert Blyford, Gent. who dyed Nov. 8, 1704, aged 70 years and 3 months: they had issue, Henry, Mary, Ann, Robert, &c.*

etc. and this shIELD, quarterly, argent and gules, on a bend fable, 3 mullets of 1ft, impaling a chevron between 3. —A grave-stone for, *John Watts, Gent. who died Apr. 25, 1677; and for Thomas Watts and Dorothy his wife; Thomas died 6 of Feb. 1693, aged 60, she Oct. 1695, aged 62.* —One for *Thomas Blyford, of Burnham-Overy, Gent. who died Feb. 1687, aged 64 years.* —In the chancel, one for *Henry Blyford, son and heir of Robert Blyford, late of Burnham-Overy, Gent. by Ann his wife, daughter of Henry Thurlow, who married Jane, eldest daughter of James Willis, of Brancaster, merchant, by Amy, second daughter of Henry Woodrow, of Burnham-Westgate, merchant, a man in all respects truly deserving, being strictly just, temperate, and good, died March 18, 1712, in his 49 year; with the arms of Blyford impaling Willis, per fess, argent and gules, 3 lions rampant counter-changed, in a bordure, ermine.* —Another, *In memory of Mary Mott, daughter of Robert Blyford, of Burnham-Overy, Gent. by Anne his wife; she had two husbands, John Thurston, Esq. by whom she lyeth, and had a son John surviving, &c. her second husband, Edmund Mott, doctor of physick, who lyeth entombed in New Walsingham church, and had issue by him, Edmund, Mary, and John, who only survived. She died May 24, 1702, aged 40; with the arms of Thurston, esq. fable, 3 bugle horns, or, stringed azure.* —Also one *In memory of John Thurston, Esq; son of John Thurston, of Hoxne in Suffolk, Esq; who died March 9, 1687, aged 57 years and ten weeks, &c.*

BURNHAM ST. ANDREW, consolidated with Burnham St. Clement, July 22, 1421. In this church there were four portions; the prior of Walsingham was patron of three, and the prior of Peterston had the patronage of the fourth.

The

The present vicar of these united parishes is the Rev. Dr. Philip Chandler, presented to the living, 1773, and the patronage is in the crown.

BURNHAM-THORPE. There are several towns here adjoining of the name of Burnham, so called from a neighbouring stream, or brook. Toke, a great Saxon thane, was lord of it in the reign of the Confessor, and was, at the conquest, deprived of it, and many more considerable lordships, when this was granted to William earl Warren, and is placed in Doomsday-Book under the hundred of Gallow, and not in Brothercros.

In the reign of Henry III. Burnham-Thorpe was a market-town, and the market held on a Saturday.

Peter Lombard, esq. in 1715, bought this estate of the heirs of sir Philip Parker, of Erwerton in Suffolk, who had it by marriage into the family of the Calthorpes.

On the death of Peter Lombard, esq. it came to the honorable Horatio Walpole, created lord Walpole of Woolterton by George II. by the marriage of Mary, one of the daughters and co-heirs of the said Peter, and is called Burnham-Thorpe Manor, *cum membris*, viz. Coldham's and Hayward's.

WINDHAM PRIORY MANOR. This came to the crown, and was granted February 12, in the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, to John Cajus, doctor of physic, who gave it to Cajus college of Cambridge, of which he was master, and in this society it remains.

VIRLEY'S MANOR, another lordship in this town, was at the survey in the possession of Robert de Virley

ley, held by Godwin in king Edward's time, and after by Ralph earl of Norfolk, who on his rebellion in the reign of the Conqueror, had forfeited it.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and is a rectory.

In the middle of the church lies a grave-stone ornamented with a rim of bras, thus inscribed:—
Will. Calthorp Miles, quondam Dnus. Manerii et Patronus Ecclie. de Brunham omn. Scor. Com. Norff. filius Oliveri Calthorp Militis, et Sibille Uxorius ejus filie----- sub hoc marmore in Ecclia. predicta requiescent, obiit xx quarto die Decembris Anno Dni. M.CCCC.XX. quor. animabus propitietur Deus, Amen. At the upper end of the said stone are, in two shields, the arms of Calthorpe and St. Omer; azuré, a fess between six crosslets, or. The arms of Sibilla, his second wife, daughter and heir of sir Edmund de St. Omer; under each shield is a bird standing on a mount, with this label, *Pensey de Fyner*; below, is the effigy of sir William in armour, between two fillets of bras; on that on his right side, *Quisquis or's qui transieris, fla. p. lege, p. lora.* The fillet on the left side is reaved, whereon, no doubt, was, *Sum quod eris, fueramq; quod es, pro me precor, ora.* A grave-stone in memory of Frances Paaston, daughter of sir William Cornwallis the younger, by his wife Catherine, daughter of sir Philip Parker, the relict of Thomas Paaston, esq. and second son of sir Edmund Paaston, knt. who died November 6, in her 73d year, and in 1675, with the arms of Paaston, impaling Cornwallis.

Also, *Hic posita sunt Exuviae sanctissimi Viri Philippi Cornwaleys hujus Ecclesiae quondam rectoris Gulielmi Cornwaleys Militis, filii natu minimi, qui obiit Decemb. 30, 1688.* This on a stone with a bras plate.

One

One in memory of Peter Lombard, son of Peter, who died January 1, 1717, aged 19. Here are two penons with the arms of Lombard; *argent, a chevron between three lions heads erased, azure.*

It appears that in the reign of Edward I. there was also another church in Burnham-Thorpe, dedicated to St. Peter, but at that time consolidated to Burnham All Saints. This consolidation took place December 24, 1364.

The present rector is Edmund Nelson, A. M. presented by the late Horatio Walpole, esq. in 1755, who was next year created lord Walpole.

BURNHAM-ULPH and SUTTON. Sutton, so called from its scite, lying south of the other towns.

The priory of Walsingham had a lordship here, Crab-Hall, which was granted on the 30th of July, in the 9th of Elizabeth, to sir Thomas Heneage and Ann his wife, in consideration of the manor of Legborne, with the rectory, and the scite of the priory of Legborne, conveyed by them to the queen; the fee farm rent of it was in sir Charles Cornwallis, in 1603.

This manor of Crab-Hall was afterwards in the Thurlows.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Albert, or Ethelbert, is now in ruins.

The present rector is the Rev. Edmund Nelson, presented in 1755 by the crown.

A mediety of All Saints was consolidated with Burnham St. Albert's, August 5, 1420, as also a mediety

diety of St. Margaret's to the same rectory, Nov. 17, 1422. At the same time the other medietyes of All Saints and St. Margaret's were annexed to Burnham St. Mary's.

BURNHAM ULPH, All Saints. This town takes the additional name of Ulfe, or Ulpe, from its scite, near the river, as Ulferton, or Wolferton, in Freebridge hundred.

Here is no steeple, a little bell hangs without the church, at the west end.

BURNHAM-WESTGATE. Hugh de Montfort was lord of a considerable manor in Burnham at the survey

POLSTED-HALL stood in a close, which retains its name at this time. It took its name from the lords of it. Sir Hugh de Polstede married Hawys, daughter of Hugh de Cundois, lord of Burnham-Mercate.

In the 4th of Henry V. a proclamation was issued, that whosoever should take sir John Oldcastle, late lord Cobham, (then attainted) should be paid by the king 1000 marks, and have 20l. per ann. for life; and if any corporation took him, an exemption from tenths and fifteenths through the kingdom; and on the 28th of April, in the next year, this manor of Polstede Hall was granted by the king to sir John Rothenhale, on whose death, about the 8th of that king, it was granted to sir Lewis Robsart, knight of the garter, for life.

In the 35th of Henry VIII. February 14, Edward Warner had a reversionary grant of it, and sir Edward Warner died seized of it in the 8th of Elizabeth,

beth, when it descended to his brother Robert, who had a licence, in the 16th of that queen, to alien it to his son, Henry Warner, of Mildenhall, esq. and in the following year conveyed part of it to Francis Cobbe; and in the 44th of the said reign, Thomas Rouse, esq. had a praecipe to render the manor of Polsted-Hall to Hen. Cornwallis, and Robert Drury, esq.

By an indenture, dated December 6, in the 14th of king James, sir Stephen Soame, knt. &c. purchased of Charles Cornwallis, &c, Polsted-Hall manor, with its appurtenances.

Thomas Harris, esq. was lord in 1724. Pinkney Wilkinson, esq. member of parliament for the borough of Old Sarum in Wiltshire, is the present lord. He married the daughter of Mr. Thurlow, of Burnham-Westgate, an heiress to a very considerable fortune. Mr. Wilkinson has built a very elegant seat near the church, and has raised many plantations in the neighbourhood.

BRECCLES MANOR. On the forfeiture of this lordship, by Ralph, the earl of Norfolk, the Conqueror being seised of it, and being in the crown, and held by Godric, it remained so till king William II. gave it to William de Albiny, ancestor to the earls of Arundel, of whom see in Castle-Rising.

REYNHAM'S, OR LEXHAM'S MANOR. The ancient family of de Rainham gave name to a lordship in this town, held of the honor of Clare; and by the escheat rolls, in the 46th of Edward III. Humfrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford and Essex, was found to die seised in capite, of the 8th part of a fee, held by the heirs of Ralph Hemenhale, formerly by sir Edmund de Reynham.

Thomas

Thomas Harris, esq. lord and patron in 1724.—
Mr. Wilkinson, merchant of London, lord in 1758.

Concealed lands here, in the tenure of Robert Jenyson, granted September 22, in the 17th of Elizabeth, to John Herbert and Andrew Palmer.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and consisted of two portions; that of St. Mary belonging to the priory of Coxford, and that of St. Edmund, each valued at 12 marks. The prior of Coxford's moiety was appropriated, and had a manse with thirty acres James de Thorp was patron of the other mediety: Peter-pence, 17d.—The prior of Castleacre had a portion of tithe out of the demeant land, valued at 7s. per ann. Hubert de Briteworth claimed, in the 15th year of king John, the right of presentation to the church of St. Mary, against the prior of Coxford; and the jury on the case, find that Hubert, grandfather to the present Hubert, had impleaded Ralph Belle, on account of the said right; and Ralph's right was allowed, (and he presented Thomas de la Folie to the vicarage) as the prior's was at this time.

The church has a nave, a north and south aisle, with a chancel.

The steeple is at the west end of the church, and embattled, and under the battlements is the old cypher or name of the Virgin, and several small figures in niches, and four bells.

On grave-stones in the chancel, the following memorials: *Henry Thurlow, and Mary his Wife, descended from the Thurlows of Burnham-Overy; he died May 29, 1678.*

B

Mary,

Mary, the daughter of Thomas Sotherton, of Taverham, Esq. wife of John Thurlow, of Burnham-Westgate, Gent. died April 12, 1705, aged 30, leaving three children, Mary, Anne, and Thomas; with the arms of Thurlow, impaling Sotherton, argent, a fess, and two crescents in chief, gules.

On another, the pourtraitures or effigies of a man between his two wives; and on a plate, *Of your charite, pray for the sowls of John Huntely, Mary and Anne his wiffes; the whyche John departyd to Allemyte God the 5th day of Jenevere, the yere of our Lord God M.CCCCC.III. on whose sowelles, Jhu. have mercy. Amen.*

In the nave, on a large marble grave-stone, with the pourtraiture of a priest in his habit, and a plate of bras: *Of your charite, pray for the soule of sir William Hoker, otherwise called Gafeld, the wiche desseid the xvth day of Nov. Ao. Dni. M.V.XL. on whose soule Jesu have mcry.*

In the church-yard, an altar monument in memory of Robert Thurlow, woollen-draper, who died September —, 1678, aged 55; and for Thomas Ward, Gent. who married the widow of Robert Thurlow, and died October 31, 1710, aged 63.

The Rev. Bryan Allott, jun. was presented to this rectory in 1766, by Hutton Perkins, of Barnard-castle in the county palatine of Durham.

Medieties of St. Margaret's and All-Saints were consolidated with this rectory, Nov. 17, 1422.

BURNHAM-WESTGATE ST. EDMUND. John le Moyne was patron about the time of Edward I. when a chaplain resided, and served the cure.

CREAK,

CREAK, NORTH, now accounted a part of the hundred of Brothercross, was at the time of the grand survey a member of the hundred of Gallow.

MANOR of CREAK. The town takes its name from its scite on a small river, or creak, that runs through this town and South Creak.

In the reign of Henry II. sir Robert de Creke held it of Roger Bigot earl of Norfolk, and this manor remained in that family till Edward II. when it was divided between the husbands of two heiresses.

Edmund Knevett, esq. second son of Edmund Knevett, of Buckenham-Castle, esq. with his wife, had livery of this lordship, July 5th, in the 25th of Henry VIII. and was seised of all the estate of the Thorpes. In this family it remained till sir Thomas Knevett sold it, June 19th, in the 33d of Elizabeth, to Richard Mansure, of North Creak, for 1300l.

In the 39th of Elizabeth, William Armiger, and Anne his wife, sister and heir of Richard Mansure, levied a fine, September 3d, and settled their manor of Thorpe-Hall, in North-Creak, on William, Miles and Mansure Armiger, their sons; William the father died March 17, 1607, and Anne his wife in 1610. From the Armigers it came to Sarah, relict of John duke of Marlborough, who left it to the honorable John Spencer, and his son, earl Spencer, is the present lord.

WALSINGHAM-PRIORY MANOR. Mary de Pakenham, widow of Edmund de Pakenham, who died possessed of a moiety of the manor of North Creak, in the 35th of Edward III. gave it by her will to the priory of Walsingham.

EARL WARREN'S MANOR, or CALTHORPE'S. In 1625, Mr. William Vowell was lord of Calthorpe's manor, in North Creak, and held it as a tenant to Christ college in Cambridge.

THE EARL OF CLARE'S MANOR. King William, on the conquest, gave to William de Scoies the lordship held here by Turchill.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and is a rectory.

In the reign of king Edward I. sir John de Creyk was lord and patron, when there was also another church, called St. Michael in the Mount, in which there was service only once a week: it was parochial, had a right of baptism, and said to be the most antient church.

The present rector is the Rev. Charles Poyntz, D. D. brother in law to the present earl Spencer, who was presented to this living by Hugh earl of Marchmont, one of the sixteen peers for Scotland, Beverston Filmer, and John Spencer, esqrs. in 1760.

This valuable rectory, one of the most considerable in the county of Norfolk, is alternately in the gift of earl Spencer and the bishop of Norwich for the time being.

CREAK ABBEY. In the year 1206 there was a church founded in a place called Lingerscroft, containing four hundred acres of ling, or heath, lying between Creak and Burnham, in the meadows, and called from thence St. Mary de Pratis, by sir Robert de Nerford, who married Alice, daughter and coheir of John Pouchard, son of sir William Pouchard; which

four

four hundred acres, Philip de Candois, of Burnham, gave in perpetual alms to the monks of Castleacre, in the time of king Stephen; and afterwards Roger, prior of Castleacre, and the convent enfeoffed the said sir William of the same. In the reign of Henry II. there was mass said in the said church, but sir Robert Narford being constable of Dover castle under Hubert de Burgh, chief justice of England, and obtaining a victory at sea over the French, designing to invade England, with the consent of Alice his wife, built a chapel to St. Bartholomew, with an hospital for thirteen poor lay brethren, and four chaplains, and a master or head. William de Geyft, with the consent of his patroness Alice, being the first chaplain, took upon him a canonical habit, with his brethren, and was called prior of St. Mary de Pratis by Creak, by whom the aforesaid land was manured in their own hands, and proper costs; and the said chapel and hospital were dedicated, 1221, by Jeffrey de Burgh, bishop of Ely, (nephew of the said Alice, and brother of Hubert de Burgh) suffragan to Pandolf, bishop of Norwich, the pope's legate. After this the lady Alice settled the advowson of this priory on king Henry III. and his heirs for ever, who made it an abbey, and confirmed its liberties, October 26, in his 15th year.

In the year 1303 Thomas de Sutcreyk was admitted abbot of Creak abbey, and a regular succession of abbots continued till the year 1503, when Giles Sherrington occurs abbot, and he dying without a convent to elect a successor, the abbey was considered as dissolved, and the lands and revenues to devolve to the crown.

It appears by the will of sir William Calthorpe, of Burnham-Thorpe, dated May 31, in the 10th of

Henry VII. that many of his ancestors were here buried in a chapel; and he appoints that all the goods of dame Sybill Boys should be employed towards making the quire, the presbytery, and repairing this abbey, and gives 74l. for that purpose.

Giles, abbot in 1503, mentioned then in the will of Walter Aflake, of Creak abbey, wherein he gives to this convent all those lands that he purchased of sir Roger Strange, knt. lying in the fields of Holme and Ringstead, so that they can get the lands in mortmain in three years, else to be sold, and the money to the profits of the said abbey, provided that the abbot and convent, and their successors, shall kepe his obit perpetually; giving to every canon there 5s. per ann. and on the obit 4d. and provided that they shall seal a general release of 7s. yereley rent, to his attourneys or heirs, that shall have his manor of Bardolf, in Ryngsted, after his decease; Item. To the said abbey, a compleat vestment of white damask; Item, I will, that the north side of the queer in the said abbey be made with tymber, workmanship, and nayles of my goods, and mete and drink, sand and lime, at the cost of the abbot and convent.

In the 22d of Henry VIII. a patent was granted to the lady Margaret, countess of Richmond, mother to that king, with licence for her to give to Christ's college, Cambridge, this abbey, with all its lands: it being looked upon as dissolved, because the abbot died without a convent to elect another, whereupon all the lands and revenues became thus settled on Christ's Coll. by the lady Margaret, the foundress, who are still in possession of the same.

The walls of this abbey are still remaining, and make part of the most admired antiquities in this county,

county. The choir is still perfectly distinguishable, and so entire, that except being open at the top it might be considered by a traveller at a distance as a place of worship to this day. The abbey estate is now held of Christ college in Cambridge, on a lease renewable every seven years.

The abbot and canons were of the order of St. Augustin. On the foundation of the hospital several orders were made for the government of it, viz. That the brethren to be admitted, should at their entrance promise chastity and obedience to the master.—That none should have any property to himself.—That a light should burn day and night in the church.

Mr. Samuel Buck has given a west view of this priory, among other prints, published by him in 1738.

CREAK, SOUTH. Part of this town was a beruwhite in the reign of the Confessor, to Herold's lordship of Fakenham, after the battle of Hastings, wherein he (being then king of England) was slain, the Conqueror took possession of it.

Towards the sea side in all the neighbouring villages are cast up little hills, which our great antiquarian Cambden is of opinion were certainly the burying places of the Danes and Saxons upon their engagements in these parts.

In South Creak there is a very remarkable Saxon fortification, very large and extensive, and denotes the fields near Creak to have been a scene of war between those nations: the way that goes from it is to this day called *Blood-gate*, as a mark of great

slaughter and shedding of blood. Around the fields is also gathered great plenty of the herb *Ebulum*, which the inhabitants call *Dane-blood*, as if it were the produce of their blood spilt here.

This large Saxon fortification*, near which at present stands a windmill, is well worth the notice of an observing traveller, or an anxious antiquarian. The fortification is about half a mile south west of the church of South Creak in the road to Siderstone and Houghton.

BEAUFOE'S MANOR. It remained in the crown, till king Henry I. granted it to Ralph de Beaufoe.

In the 3d of Henry VI. Sir John Beaufoe died possessed of it, and Sir William his brother was his heir.

The lady Eleanor Townshend died seised of it, as appears by the eschaet-rolls, in the 17th of Henry the 7th.

In the 36th of Henry VIII. John Basset conveyed it to Roger Townshend, and Sir Roger Townshend, bart. died lord of it in 1636, in which family it remains; the right honourable Charles lord viscount Townshend died lord, and his son George, lord viscount, now enjoys it.

CREEN-ABBEY MANOR. On the dissolving of Creak abbey, it was granted by king Henry VII. to his mother, the lady Margaret, countess of Richmond, who granted it to Christ's college in Cambridge, where it still remains as in Creak abbey.

ROSE'S

* See the plan taken by Mr. Armstrong.

ROSE'S MANOR. The earl Warren's lordships in North Creak and Burnham Thorpe, extended into this town.

On the 3d of April, in the 26th of Henry VIII. Edward Calthorpe of Kirby-Cane in Norfolk, Esq. and Thomasine his wife, sold the manor of Rose's in this town, Holkham, &c. which Mrs. Elizabeth Calthorpe, widow of William Calthorpe, Esq. held for life, with the reversion of all the lands held by her, to John Pepys of South Creak, merchant.

This manor continued for a long series of years in the family of the Pepys, one of which founded a library for the use of the master and fellows of Magdalen college in Cambridge, styled to this day *Bibliotheca Pepysiana*.

CASTLEACRE-PRIORY MANOR. At the dissolution, Thomas, prior of Castleacre, and the convent, in Michaelmas term in the 29th of Henry VIII. conveyed it to Thomas, duke of Norfolk, with the appropriated rectory, and the patronage of the vicarage of this church.

The church was originally a rectory, but is now a vicarage: the impropriation of the great tithes is in the lord viscount Townshend who is patron of this living. The Rev. Mr. Wm. Fisher is the present vicar, presented by lord Townshend in 1768, and a second time in 1774.

This town gives name to the deanry of Toftrees.

WATERDEN. So called from its scite, in a watery valley, and was held at the survey under the earl Warren.

In

26 BROTHERCROSS HUNDRED.

In the 39th of Henry VI. William Walton, esq. was lord of Waterden-hall, in right of Catherine his wife, daughter and heir of John Dorant.

Gyles Sefoule, Esq. was lord in 1556, and married Alice, daughter of Laurence Norton, of South-Creak.

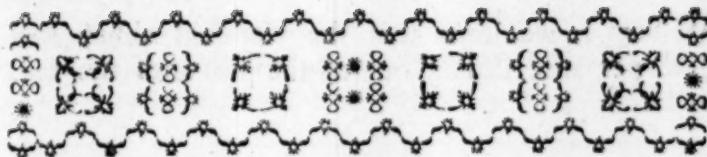
The church of Waterden is dedicated to All Saints.

This hamlet was for many years in the family of Thomas Sefoule, esq. who was lord in the beginning of the reign of queen Elizabeth.

From various possessors it is come to the Holkham estate, and Lord Leicester died possessed of it in 1759: in 1750 his lordship presented the Rev. Thomas Flacke to this rectory.

There is but one family in the parish, and one tenant upon the estate,





T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
N O R F O L K.



Hundred and Half of Clackclose.

HIS hundred and half lies on the western part of the county of Norfolk, and adjoins to the Isle of Ely. It is bounded on the north by the hundred of Freebridge Lynn and Marshland; by South Greenhoe and Grimshoe on the east, and by Cambridgeshire on the south and west. The Saxon king Edgar gave the lordship of it to the abbey of Ramsey in Huntingdonshire, with sixty socmen in the towns of Wimbotsham, Hilgay, Downham, and its market, at the request of Oswald, a monk, who lived with him; and at the grand survey made by

A William

William I. we learn that the aforesaid abbey had 70s. per ann. issuing out of the profits of the soc, or lordships of it.

Sir Henry Spelman observes, that there were sixty monks in that convent, so that every monk had his socman to maintain him, and that there were four other socmen to maintain the abbot. Many and great were their privileges. In the 4th of king John they were confirmed, as they had been by Hen. I. with the same liberties and pleas that belonged to the crown.

In the 3d of Edward I. the jury find, that it was valued, together with the lordships of Wimbotsham, Hilgay, and the Market of Downham, at ten marks per ann. and that the abbot had the taking out and the return of all writs, &c. view of frank-pledge, forfeitures, felons goods, the leet, a gallows, and a prison belonging to it, which was at Wimbotsham; and in the 41st of Henry III. William Briton, the king's justice, by the king's writ made a gaol delivery of many robbers, &c. taken within and without the abbot's liberty.

The hundred court, and sheriff's turn, was then held at Clackclose hill, on the common of Stradset; and all lords of manors within the liberty, their tenants, and all men of considerable estates, were suitors to it, excepting the tenants of the bishop of Ely, abbot of Dereham, prior of Shouldham, &c,

On the dissolution of religious houses in the reign of Henry VIII. it came to the crown, when the hundred was separated from the half hundred; and on October 14, in the 1st and 2d of Philip and Mary, the hundred was granted to Edward lord North, and soon

soon after was purchased by sir Nicholas Hare, on whose death, October 30, in the year following, Michael his son and heir had livery of it.

On the death of sir John Hare, in 1637, it was valued at 45l. per ann. and his descendant, sir Geo. Hare, bart. was lord, who appointed his own bai-liff, steward, and coroner, and died in 1764.

The lately deceased Thomas Moore, D.D. and sir Thomas Harris, bart. were lords in right of their ladies, sisters and co-heirs of the estates belonging to the ancient family of Hare.

Several grants from the crown have confirmed it, with all its rights and privileges, to this family, and one in particular, in the 2d year of James I. to sir Ralph Hare.

The half hundred being separated from the hundred, and vested in the crown, was granted on March 2, in the 7th of Edward VI. to John Dudley duke of Northumberland, who conveyed it the next day to Edmund Beaupre, esq. of Outwell, to be held of the king in soccage, as part of the manor of East Greenwich in Kent; and by the marriage of Dorothy, daughter and heir of Edmund, by his second wife, came to sir Robert Bell, lord chief baron of the Exchequer, who was killed by a pestilential fume or vapour at Oxford assizes in 1577, whose descendants enjoyed it, till Beaupre Bell, esq. on his death, about 1741, gave it by will to Elizabeth, his youngest sister, who in 1742 was married to William Greaves, esq. of Fulbourne in Cambridgeshire, and is now lord in her right. This gentleman has added Beaupre Bell to his own name, and was lately Commissary of the university of Cambridge.

This

This half hundred extends itself into the isle of Ely, and the great level of the fens; Wellney, or Croft river, running through the towns of Upwell, Outwell, and Wellney, being the boundary of the county of Norfolk, with the isle of Ely; the north side or part of the river being in Norfolk, and the south side in the isle.

The boundaries of this half hundred to the north, where it joined to Marshland, (which belonged to the bishops of Ely) were in ancient days well known, and remain upon record; but through great length of time, the names of the places and rivers growing obsolete, and being much changed and altered by new drains, &c. by the adventurers on their draining, are at this time, it is to be feared, in a great measure unknown.*

These boundaries were settled in the reign of Richard I. and appear in a register of the abbey of Ramsey, &c. There have also been disputes and law-suits about the rights, privileges and boundaries, between the lords of the hundred and of the half hundred in the last century.

On the 8th of December, in the 36th of Cha. II. a robbery being committed near Shouldham-Thorpe and Stradset, the townships of Upwell and Outwell refusing to pay their proportion as charged, a suit of law commenced, they pretending to be in the liberty of

* Parkin.—In that part of Mr. Armstrong's Survey of Norfolk, exhibited as a specimen of his intended Map, we find the boundary of this Hundred and Half with Marshland and the Isle of Ely is very distinctly pointed out; and we doubt not but every other part of the county will be delineated in the same accurate and intelligent manner by that gentleman.

of the half hundred; but on a full hearing, it was decreed by sir Robert Atkins, lord chief baron, on July 9, in the 2d of William and Mary, that they should forthwith pay their shares, being members and parts of the said hundred of Clackclose.

In Doomsday book this hundred and half is wrote Clachelosa, Clachelesosa, and Clakeslosa, and is a compound of these three words, Cla or Claia, Ches or Kefs, and Losa. Cla or Claia, and Cley, betokens a place surcharged with water, as Cley in Norfolk, by the sea, Clare in Suffolk, and Clavering in Essex, &c. Ches or Kefs, is a place seated near some river, as Cheswick, or Kefwick, in Norfolk and in Middlesex, Chachefton in Norfolk, Chesham in Bucks. Losa sets forth its scite, Le Ouse, on the river Ouse.

In this hundred are the following towns, to which we add the number of votes polled by freeholders resident in each, at the last contested election, March 23, 1768.

	W.	deG.	A.	C.
Barton-Bendish	—	0	19	18
Beechamwell and Shingham	2	2	0	6
Bexwell	—	0	0	0
Boughton	—	1	1	1
Cringleham	—	0	6	1
Denver	—	4	4	10
Dereham, West	—	1	1	0
Downham	—	1	8	27
Fincham	—	14	15	4
Fordham	—	1	1	0
Hilgay	—	12	14	5
Marham	—	1	3	5
Outwell	—	1	1	6
	B			Runceton

HUNDRED OF

	W.	de G.	A.	C.
Runcion South with Holme	0	0	5	5
Riston, West	—	0	1	1
Shouldham, and	4	6	6	4
Shouldham-Thorpe	4	6	6	4
Southery	—	4	3	3
Stoke-Ferry	—	7	3	3
Stow-Bardolph	—	0	3	3
Stradset	—	0	1	1
Tottenhill	—	0	4	4
Upwell	—	6	27	23
Wallington with Thorpland	0	0	2	2
Watlington	—	2	10	9
Wellney	—	1	7	7
Wereham	—	5	1	0
Wimbotsham	—	0	4	4
Wormegay	—	0	3	3
Wretton	—	3	6	5
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	70	90	161	142

Seats and principal Houses in this Hundred.

<i>Beaupre Hall in Outwell,</i>	W. Greaves B. B. Esq.
<i>Beechamwell,</i>	Sir John Berney, Bart.
<i>Denver</i>	late Capt. Manby.
<i>Dereham, West</i>	— Lowe, Esq.
<i>Fincham,</i>	Rev. Joseph Forby.
<i>Fordham,</i>	W. Wollaston, Esq. M.P.
<i>Hilgay, Wood Hall</i>	late Capt. Manby.
<i>Riston, West</i>	Edward Pratt, Esq.
<i>Stoke-Ferry</i>	Sir Clem. Trafford, Knt,
<i>Stow-Bardolph,</i>	Mrs. Moore.
<i>Stradset,</i>	Philip Case, Esq.
	<i>Upwell</i>

<i>Upwell</i> (Camb. & Norf.)	John Wilkes, Esq. M.P.
<i>Wallington.</i>	Henry Bell, Esq.
<i>Watlington,</i>	Thomas Plestow, Esq.
<i>Werham,</i>	John Heaton, Esq.
<i>Wormegay,</i>	Henry Lee Warner, Esq.

The hundred and half of Clackclose is in extent, from Setchy bridge on the north, to the river Brandon or Little Ouse, fourteen miles; and from Upwell on the west, to Shingham eastward, fifteen miles and a half.

A considerable proportion of the great Bedford Level extends into this hundred; but as we have fully treated on that important subject in our general description to the hundred of Freebridge, we shall not here reiterate; and have only to add, that the improvement of the navigation and drainage, which has been so long and repeatedly agitated, remains yet in embryo.

The navigable rivers Ouse, Brandon, Stoke, and Nene, and the Old and New Bedford rivers all unite in this hundred; by which channels an immense traffick is communicated between the port of Lynn Regis, and the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Northampton, Huntingdon, and Bedford.

The upland parts of this hundred are bold, fertile, and beautiful; and notwithstanding the vapour which rises from the fens below, is esteemed healthy; but this may be accounted for by supposing that the sun attracts the effluvia southerly. It abounds with woods, seats, and large villages.

The whole hundred and half pays to the general rate of the county 30l. 3s. towards a six hundred

8 HUNDRED OF

pound levy, and constitutes the deanry of Fincham, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk.

BARTON, wrote Bertuna in Doomsday-book, and now called Barton-Bendish, to distinguish this town from Barton-Turf in the hundred of Tunstead. It was called Berton by the Saxons, from its scite by the hills; thus, Barley in Hertfordshire, Barton in Suffolk, &c. Bergh or Bar signifying a hill. At the grand survey made by William I. in the year 1085, it was possessed by three great lords; one of these Hermerus de Fereys, or de Ferrers, was lord of this manor by a grant of the Conqueror, on the deprivation of Turchetel. William was enfeoffed of it under Hermerus. In Turchetel's time there was a church endowed with twelve acres, which was valued at 6s. per ann.

Turchetel was a Saxon thane, or nobleman, held many lordships in this hundred and county, most of which were granted to Hermerus. William, who held it of him, was probably ancestor of the family of de Wormegay, which was also a lordship of Hermerus; he is styled a free-man. Godwin, father of king Harold, and his sons are thus also called in the grand survey.

In the book of Doomsday we frequently meet with the word *commendatio*. Romulus, the first king of Rome, placed the Plebeians (as a trust) in the hands of the Patricians, allowing every Plebeian the liberty to chuse any Patrician he thought proper for his patron. Terence, in his play called the *Eunuch*, says.—“*Thais patri se commendavit in clientenam, et fidem nobis se dedit.*”—It is probable the Britons learned this of the Romans, and so it came to the Saxons.

Another

Another thing to be observed is, that great Norman lords at the conquest, frequently invaded, or seized on the lands of many free-men and Saxon lords, without any authority or grant from the Conqueror, by force and violence.

LOVEL'S MANOR. About the reign of king Stephen, a family who assumed their name from the great Saxon dike, lying at the east end of this township, cast up (as 'tis said) as a boundary to this hundred, and called de Bendish, held it of the honor of Wormegay in this hundred, of the heirs of Hermerius: the daughter of John Bendish was married to Thomas Lovel, in the reign of Richard I.

This family claim their descent from the earls of Iberi in France. John Bendish aforesaid was with that king in the wars of the Holy Land, and had the king's protection for his lands. William Lovel held one knight's fee here in the time of Henry III. and in the 54th of that king, John de Lovel attended prince Edward into the Holy Land, and had the king's protection, &c. lord here, and held lands in Boughton, Beechamwell, and Mattishal. John Lovel, son of John, died in the 2d of Edward III. feised of this manor, with the advowson of the church of St. Mary, a windmill, &c. held of the honor of Wormegay. Thomas Lovel, senior, of Barton-Bendish, died in 1421, and was buried in St. Mary's church of Barton. King Richard, in his 9th year, exempted him from serving on any jury, or as an escheator, coroner, &c.

Thomas Lovel, esq. his son and heir, died in the 28th of Henry VI. and left Thomas, his son, who married Ann, daughter of Robert Tappes, alderman of Norwich, and merchant. The said Thomas, and his

his father Thomas Lovel, esq. presented several times to the church of St. Mary, from the year 1422, to the year 1463. In the 13th of Edward IV. a fine was levied, wherein this Thomas, and Ann his wife, convey to sir Thomas Brews, William Yelverton, junior, esq. all his interest in this town, from the heirs of the said Ann; and died, soon after, without issue.

In the year 1474 Gregory Lovel, esq. presented to St. Mary's church, as lord of this manor; he was son and heir of sir Ralph Lovel (as he is styled) brother of Thomas Lovel, esq. aforesaid, lord of West-Hall manor, of Beachamwell; and patron to the church of St. John's in that town, to which he presented five times by the name of Ralph Lovel, esq. the last presentation being in 1475, and died soon after. By Joan his wife, he was father of three of the most eminent knights in that time; sir Gregory the first son; sir Robert the second, was created a knight at Blackheath Field in 1497; sir Thomas the third, was knight banneret, knight of the garter, chancellor of the Exchequer, president of the council, &c. Gregory the eldest was also a knight, and presented to this church in 1496.

He married Margaret, daughter of sir William Brandon, aunt to Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, and was father of Thomas Lovel, esq. who presented as lord in 1510; and in 1518, then a knight; by Catherine his wife, daughter of sir Thomas Wodehouse, of Kimberly, had Thomas his son, and a daughter. This Thomas dying before his father, without issue by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Joh^{es} Dethick, esq. of Wormegay, sir Thomas Lovel conveyed it to Thomas Mono, whose son, in the reign of that queen, sold it to John Dethick, who presented to the

the church of St. Mary in 1588; and Edmund Dethick presented in 1562. Christopher Dethick passed it to Francis Wodehouse, esq. in the 16th of queen Elizabeth, who, in the 21st of the said reign conveyed it to Francis Gawdy, esq. serjeant at law, afterwards lord chief-justice of the common-pleas, who died possessed of it. By the marriage of Frances his grand-daughter, it came to Robert Rich, earl of Warwick, and so to sir Thomas Cheek, who, in the 17th of James I. conveyed it to sir Ralph Hare, of Stow-Bardolph; and on the 10th of October, in the 17th of Charles II. was sold by sir Ralph Hare, bart. to sir Richard Berney, bart. in which family it remains; sir John Berney, bart. son of sir Hanson Berney, of Kirby-Bedon, bart. being the present lord.

BRANCASTER HALL. The ancient family of Brancaster gave name to it; Robert de Brancaster was living and lord in the reign of Henry II.

John Fincham and John Codington held in the 3d of Henry IV. one fee of the honor of Wormegay; in the family of Fincham it remained till William Fincham conveyed it to Thomas Heigham, gent. from whom it came to serjeant Gawdy, and afterwards to the Berneys.

CURPELL and HERN-HALL. Roger Curpell was lord, and held half a fee here in the reign of Henry III. of the honor of Wormegay, and left four daughters and co-heirs: it came to the Cawstons, and after to Nicholas de Maffingham, who kept a court here in the 9th of Richard II. and then to the Lovels. It was soon after united to Lovel's manor, passed with it, and is in sir John Berney, bart.

EAST-HALL. One moiety of this was in the Lovels, the other in the Finchams, in the 26th of Henry VIII. held of the honor of Wormegay. Sir Thomas Lovel in the 26th of Henry VIII. conveyed it to Robert Trapps, goldsmith, of London; and Trapps to sir Roger Townshend, with Littlemore-Close, in the 36th of that king; and Townshend to John Dethick, esq. Christopher Dethick to Francis Wodehouse, esq. in the 16th of Elizabeth, who in the 21st of that queen sold it to serjeant Gawdy, so was united to Lovel's manor, &c.

John Fincham, esq. died possessed of a moiety of East-Hall in the 33d of Henry VIII. and William Fincham in the 12th of Elizabeth sold it to John Higham, and so came to Gawdy, &c.

SNORE-HALL in Eastmore. Michael de Snore held it in the reign of Edward I. John Atte-Snore was lord in the 6th of Edward III. Two parts were held of the lord Bardolph, and the abbot of West Dereham, paying him 22s. per ann. and the rest of John de Fincham. This also came to Gawdy, and so to the Berneys.

Rainald, son of Ivo, had a grant of the principal manor, and part of this town from the Conqueror, on the deprivation of Chetil, a free-man, lord in king Edward's reign; this was valued at 40s. at the survey at 30s. It was one leuca long, half a leuca and three furlongs broad, and when the whole hundred paid 20s. gelt, the whole village of Barton paid 16d.

The said Rainald had also the lordship which Turchill, or Turchetil, was deprived of; valued in the whole at 10s. in king Edward's reign, after at 60s. at the

the survey at 35s. and what five free-men belonging to this held at 42s. and 8d. per ann.

Rainald had also a grant of a manor of which Toli, a free-man, was deprived; the whole valued at 8os. after at 6os. and what five free-men belonging to the soc only had, at 10s.

These tenures possessed by Rainald, came to the earls of Clare, and constituted several lordships, held of that honor.

SCALES-MANOR. Robert, lord Scales, held one fee of the earl of Clare, in the reign of Henry III. and in the 3d of Edward I. a gallows at Mickledike, between Barton and Beechamwell, belonged to it, and was valued in the 33d of Edward III. at 10l. 19s. 3d. per ann. By the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Thomas, lord Scales, it came to Anthony Woodvile, earl Rivers, who enjoyed it in the 4th of Edward IV. This lady dying without issue, it descended to Elizabeth, daughter and heir of sir John Howard, by Joan his wife, daughter and heir of sir Richard Walton, relict of John, earl of Oxford; who was beheaded in the 1st of Edward IV. and on her decease, was granted by Richard III. on February 1, anno 2, to John, duke of Norfolk.

On the accession of Henry VII. it was restored to John Vere, earl of Oxford, and lord Scales, who dying without issue it fell to two of his sisters; Dorothy, wife of John Nevill, lord Latimer, and Elizabeth, wife of sir Anthony Wingfield; the Wingfields being afterwards possessed of the whole, sir Robert Wingfield, and his son Anthony, on May 16, in the 33d of Elizabeth, conveyed it to Sir John Gawdy,

Gawdy, and so came, with the other fees, to the present lord, sir John Berney, bart.

OVERHALL and NETHERHALL. William de Barton held, in the 3d of Edward I. the fourth part of a fee; and in the 8th of Edward II. his heirs of the honour of Clare. The Lovels afterwards possessed it, and Thomas Monox died seised of these manors, held of the king as of the honour of Clare, by knight's service, in the 30th of Henry VIII. and George Monox conveyed them to John Dethick, esq. his grandson Christopher sold them to Francis Wodehouse, of Beccles, esq. and he to serjeant Gawdy, and so united, came to the Berneys.

DEREHAM ABBOT'S MANOR. The abbot was possessed of this, as appears in the 19th of Edward I. In the 12th year of Edward II. Richard Rigge gave by fine 38 acres of land, and five of meadow, to it, held of the lord Scales. In the 1st year of Henry VII. Thomas Lovell, esq. held it of the abbot, paying certain rents. The scite of it was at Eastmore, a hamlet in this parish.

At the general dissolution, it was found leased to John Dethick, esq. by Roger Firman the last abbot, in the 29th of Henry VIII. for sixty years; on the expiration of which, it was granted to Thomas Jones by queen Elizabeth, August 15, anno 9, in consideration of his great charges in maintaining two ships well armed for some time for her service, paying 8l. 11s. 8d. to the crown per ann. This Jones was a burgess of Lynn-Regis.

Robert Cecil earl of Salisbury held it, and conveyed it to sir John Rous, and Nathaniel Rich, esq. and

and so came to Robert Rich, earl of Warwick, and to the Berneys.

The temporalities of this abbey, with Winwaloy priory, were valued in 1428 at 11l. 11s. 4d. per annum.

BROOMHOLME PRIORY MANOR. The prior held it in 1270, and in that year Richard de Longden gave six marks, and a fen in Eastmore. In the 14th of Edward I. Cecilia, wife of John de Rungton, gave lands in Barton.

It was suppressed before the general dissolution by a bull of pope Clement VII. dated May 14, 1528, and granted by Henry VIII. to cardinal Wolsey on the 30th of December following, with all the messuages, lands, &c. in Barton and Eastmore; soon after, on that cardinal's præmunire and attaïnder, was given January 2, in the 28th of the said king, to Christ college in Cambridge, and so remains.

In 1428, their temporalities were valued at 39s. 6d. per ann.

BARTON-BURIAL MANOR, was part of the possessions of Herringby college in the hundred of East Flegg. On its dissolution, it was granted April 18, in the 36th of Henry VIII. to sir William Wodehouse, who aliened it in the 2d of Edward VI. to Augustine Steward, who sold it in the 2d of Elizabeth to Robert Wood, alderman of Norwich, who passed it in the 10th of that queen to John Gerard. In her 14th year, John Parker conveyed it to Richard Lucas, and so it came to judge Gawdy, and to the Berneys.

Besides these lordships, it appears that Ralph de Camois claimed one knight's fee in Barton and Eastmore of Ralph de Roffa, or Rochester, which Ralph Wallensis, his father's uncle was seised of in the reign of Henry II. William de Roucester died possessed of it in the 33d of Henry III. and it came to sir Robert Tuddenham by the marriage of Eva, relict of Ralph de Rochester, brother and heir of William, who died without issue.

This was also held of the earls of Clare; and in the 54th of Henry III. sir Robert Tuddenham granted it, by fine, to Robert de Weston, and Hawisia his wife, sister of Ralph, (which they held in dower of the inheritance of Hawisia) in exchange for the manor of Eriswell in Suffolk; but in the 1st of Edw. I. the said sir Robert, &c. conveyed it to Gilbert de Well.

BAINARD HALL. Ralph Bainard, a Norman lord, had, on the Conquest, the grant of a capital manor, of which Ailid, a free woman, was deprived, valued at 8s. but at the survey at 6s. also a church, endowed with 24 acres, valued at 2s. per ann. Four men belonged to it, who paid all customary dues; and there were four other, who belonged to the lord's soc, and held a carucate and six acres of meadow, valued in Ailid's time at 20s. at the survey at 30s. Ralph had also seized on, in this town, thirty acres, held by a free-man in king Edward's time.

William, lord Bainard, rebelling against Henry I. forfeited this lordship, and that king gave it to Robert, a younger son of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, ancestor of the earls of Clare; from this Robert the family of the lords Fitz-Walters descended; and in the reign of Henry III. Edmund de Lenn and Richard

chard Jeffrey, alias Jovene, held it of the lord Fitz-Walter by one knight's fee.

William de Lenn, rector of North Lynn, held a moiety of it in the 2d of Edward III. and conveyed it, anno 6, to Adam de Fincham; and anno 20, John de Fincham held it, and John de Codington the other moiety, to whom it was conveyed, anno 17, by William de Eaton and Joan his wife, late wife of John de Jovene. After this the Finchams were possessed of it; and in the 33d of Henry VIII. died lord of the whole. William Fincham, esq. in the 12th of Elizabeth, granted it to Charles Cornwallis, esq. who married his sister Ann, from whom it came, anno 32, to Thomas Gawsell, Jasper Blake, &c. and soon after to serjeant Gawdy, and so to the Hares and Berneys.

The leet of the town was in sir George Hare, bart. The tenths were 10l. 7s. deducted 1l. for the lands of the religious, who were charged, and paid it themselves. Leet-fee 2s. 2d.

In the 16th of Richard II. Thomas Moore, &c. aliened lands here, and in Beechamwell to the prior of Ingham.

The temporalities of Ramsey were valued in 1428 at 20s. those of the prior of St. Neots at 15s. 6d. the spiritualities of the college of Stoke-Clare, in St. Andrew's parish, at 40s.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, is a single pile, built of flint stones, &c. in length about fifty-three feet, in breadth about nineteen, covered with reed, and has a square tower, coped with free-stone, and three bells; on the top or summit is a cup or cover, with a

weather-cock. Over the entrance, or arch of the porch, in a niche, stands a little antique figure of St. Andrew, with his shield, a saltire cross, in his right hand; and on the sides of this porch are flint stones, worked in the form of saltires. Many churches had the image of the saint to whom they were dedicated, in such places. Thus we read, that the image of Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, was over the door of the mercers chapel in Cheapside, London, dedicated to him, and the basin for the holy water is still entire on the right hand as you enter.

On the pavement, within the rails of the communion table, lie three black marble stones. On one, *Depositum Matthæi Novell, rectoris hujus ecclesiæ.*—2. *Depositum Mariae conjugis Matti. Novell.*—3. *Depositum Matti. filii 2di. Matti. & Mariae Novell.*

The east window has been ornamented with painted glafs; on the edging of it may be observed several leopards heads, or, jessant fleurs de lys, the arms of Cantilupe.

On the pavement of the chancel are several small antique pavements, and thereon are cinquefoils, stars, mullets, lozenges, - - - and ermine, and some with eagles and crescents, and are about four inches square. This chancel is about thirty-three feet long, and fifteen broad, covered with reed.

In the church-yard are three altar tombs of brick, covered with stone slabs, to *William Mott, Gent. buried December 14, 1705,* and two of his sons, who died in the same year.

The

The patronage was in the prior, &c. of St. Neots in Huntingdonshire till 1349, when the temporalities were in the king, who presented till 1396; at which time the prior and convent became patrons, and so continued till the dissolution by Henry VIII. and it has remained in the crown ever since.

This church in 1512 was valued at twenty marks; this old value was made about the 20th of Edw. I. and the last (now in use) in the 20th of Hen. VIII.

Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, in the reign of Henry II. paid no first fruits, or annates to the pope; none were paid in that time, or before it, but afterwards, in the time of pope John XXII. first fruits began to be paid.

William Burley, the rector, was deprived in 1553, as *a married priest*.

The rector returned, in 1603, ninety-eight communicants.

In 1755, the Rev. James Adamson was presented to the rectory of Barton St. Andrew's by the crown.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 14l. and pays tenths 1l. 8s.

Roger de Clare, earl of Gloucester, &c. with the consent of his son Richard, gave this church to the priory of St. Neots in Huntingdonshire, for the health of the souls of his ancestors, and Thomas bishop of Norwich confirmed it, to take place on the death of Roger de Elmham, then rector; dated at the bishop's manor of Eccles, in the 6th year of his pontificate, on St. John Baptist day.

Here was a pension issuing out of the church belonging to the priory and college of Stoke-Clare in Suffolk of 40s. in 1428, and granted to Robert earl of Sussex, in the 28th of Henry VIII. and at this time, 5l. per ann. pension is paid by the rector to the lord Walpole.

Gilbert de Clare, who lived in the reign of William II. is said to grant the tithes of his manors in Norfolk to the said priory.

There were anciently in this church the arms of Lovel, &c.

EASTMORE, belonging to this town of Barton. In the hamlet of Barton Eastmore was a chapel, which Bartholomew de Brancestre gave by deed, sans date, to the abbey of West Dereham; (which by the said deed seems to have been well endowed) to find two canons of that house to pray there for his soul, &c, for ever, at the appointment of that abbot and convent.

In the deed this chapel is called the chapel of St. John Baptist, and was in the patronage of Dereham abbey; but in all the institution books at Norwich we find it called the chapel of St. Mary, and not to be in the patronage of that abbey; so that probably the foundation was afterwards altered, and it was settled otherwise.

This chaplainship was in the family of Lovel.

After 1428, we find no institution to this chapel in the register books of Norwich. The last custos, on the dissolution of this chapel in the 1st of Edward VI. was William Dicons, who was alive in 1553, and

and held then an annual pension of 3l. 7s. 6d. We also find a messuage, and thirty acres of land, to have belonged to it. At the suppression it was granted to sir Thomas Woodhouse, of Waxham, and turned into a farm-house, having some additional buildings. It is still called the chapel-house; part of the chapel, at the east end of the house, still remains, as appears by the old roof,

St. Mary's church stands at the west end of the town, and was beat down by the fall of the tower, in the reign of queen Anne, and is rebuilt of the old materials; it is a single pile, about 24 feet long and 15 broad, covered with reed, as is the chancel, which is about 22 feet long, and 14 broad, without any tower.

Walter Baldwin de Crympleham, rector, was buried in the church-yard of St. Mary here.

John Laydston, vel Ladstocke, sir John Laydston, parson of Barton St. Mary, dwelling there in the time of Henry VIII. had a pension of 6l. per ann. by reason of a certain chauntry in West Lynn, Norfolk. By this it appears, and many other such like instances, that chauntry priests, and other religious, were not turned out to shift for themselves, as some represent, but had pensions allowed them, and obtained besides rectories and benefices.

The patronage was in the Lovels till 1558, when it passed to the Dethicks, so to the Gawdys and the Benneys.

In 1603 the rector returned 28 communicants in the parish.

In

In 1736, the Rev. Richard Jones was presented to the rectory of Barton St. Mary by sir Thomas Berney, bart.

The patronage of this rectory goes with the manor, and sir John Berney, bart. is patron.

It is valued in the king's books at 5l. 6s. 8d. and being in clear value but 39l. per ann. is discharged of tenths and first fruits. Ancient value five marks; Peter-pence 9d.

In this church there were anciently the arms of Lovel, Edward the Confessor, Carvile, with his crest, Carvile and Haltoft, Carvile and Bedingfield, Carvile and Astley, Ufford and Beak quarterly, Gawfell and Bekewell, Bedingfield and Tuddenham, Shouldham and Narburgh, Bossome, Syliard, Castle, &c.

The church of All Saints stands between the churches of St. Mary and St. Andrew, in Barton, and is built of flint and boulder: it is an ancient pile, supported by buttresses of brick; of a body, or aisle, in length about 47 feet, and in breadth about 16; the top is cambered and impannelled with wainscot, and covered with reed. Here seems to have been a little chapel on the north side of it by the pillars, &c. This body or nave is separated by a screen from the chancel, which is about 31 feet in length, and about 16 in breadth, and covered with thatch.

In the north window are the arms of lord Scales, and in the upper window, on the south side, Cafton. Here were anciently the arms of lord Bardolph, the earl of Clare, and Burgh earl of Ulster.

At

At the west end of the nave is a four-square tower of flint, &c. and quoins of free-stone, embattled with brick. In this tower hang three large ancient bells, with inscriptions.

The ancients used inscriptions on their bells.— Montfaucon mentions one with a Greek inscription, but in Latin characters; CHOVS. ARTEMIS. EPHESTION. AER, MENI. Bells in the Romish church were, and are baptized, and have their godfathers and godmothers, and more ceremonies are then used, than at the baptism of a Christian.

Juga, sister or wife rather of Ralph Bainard, lord of this town, founded in 1004 the priory of Dunmow in Essex, which her son Jeffrey enjoyed; but William lord Bainard, on his rebellion in the reign of Henry I. was deprived; whether any of these gave the patronage of this church to the priory does not appear.

In the 13th of Edward I. a patent was granted to the convent of this advowson, most likely by the lord Fitz-Walter. In that year there was a suit between the prior and Edmund de Leen, and Richard de Jovene, concerning the patronage, and Edward released his right to the prior.

William Bulwer, rector, died June 1431, and was buried in the middle of the chancel of this church.

The patronage of this church, on the dissolution of the priory of Dunmow, was given in the 28th of Henry VIII. to Robert Ratcliff, earl of Sussex; as also the pension belonging to the said priory out of this rectory, valued in 1428 at 50s. and died seised of the same.

The

The rector was deprived in 1555, being a secular *married priest*. About this time we find in a MSS. that this church was not then seised.

In 1603, James Jones, A. M. rector, returned 56 communicants in this parish; and was buried in the chancel of the church.

This church is valued in the king's books at 5l. 18s. 4d. but being in clear value but 39l. per ann. is discharged of first fruits and tenths; old value nine marks. The patronage was in the late Andrew Taylor, and now, according to Mr. Parkin, in William Folkes, esq.

The pension of the priory of Dunmow in this church was 30s. The regulars in the time of popery, to depress the世俗s, when they got the advowson of a church, would not present a priest, but on a simoniacal contract of a pension, a grievance after complained of, but never remedied.

In 1736, the Rev. Richard Jones was presented to the rectory of Barton All Saints.

All the principal manors of this town, with the patronage of the principal rectory, and a very considerable property, are now the estate, and in the possession of sir John Berney, bart. of Kirby-Bedon in this county, son and heir of the late sir Hanson Berney, bart.

This town about four years since was inclosed, by an act of parliament obtained for that purpose; when the lands of the different owners, lying in divers small and intermixed pieces, were allotted together; a large tract of waste land, and ordinary common,

common, drained, improved, divided, and allotted; the sheep-walks, and shackages over the arable lands, extinguished; by which means, the face and appearance of this whole town is now entirely changed; the open fields and waste lands are divided into handsome inclosures, with growing and prosperous fences, and the roads heretofore almost impassable, are now strait, spacious, and in great order; and the rental of the town, and different owners, more than doubled, by the improvement: an instance of the great public, as well as private utility, arising from parliamentary inclosure.

The present rector of Barton St. Andrew is the Rev. Mr. Forby. The annual value of the churches are very considerably increased, from the improvement in the town, by the late inclosing act.

BEECHAM, BEACHAM, or BICHAMWELL, though now looked upon and accounted as one town, was, at the time of the grand survey, two distinct and separate towns, Well and Bicham. Well was the most southern part, near the river that rises at Shingham.

Rainald, son of Ivo, had the grant of the lordship of Well, on the deprivation of Toli, a Saxon lord. Here was a fishery, or fishpond. The whole was always valued at 6l. but had paid 8l. 17 free-men also belonged to it, with land, &c. valued at 13s. 4d. whom Wilhenoc had invaded, or seized on. All Well was one leuca long, and one broad, and paid 2s. to the king's gelt at 20s.

Rainald had also the lands of six free-men, valued at 26s. 8d. three of these free-men were under the protection of the predecessor of Hermerus, and Wilhenoc had these.

In

In Beecham, Rainald had twenty-four acres of land, which a free-man had been deprived of by the invasion of Wihenoc; and Hermere, predecessor, had the protection of him only, and it paid 5s.

WELL-HALL. Hubert de St. Philebert was lord in the reign of Henry II. and held it of the earls of Clare. In the 5d of king John a fine was levied between Hugh de Philibert and Roger de St. Philibert, whereby Hugh granted to Roger, and his heirs, a moiety of this manor, to be held of Hugh; and in the 13th of the said king a fine was levied between Stephen de Scalariis and Beatrix his wife (daughter and heir of Roger de St. Philibert) and Hugh de St. Philibert, of the moiety abovementioned, granted to Hugh, reserving only the domain lands to themselves. In the 53d of Henry III. Nicholas de Cressingham granted by fine to Gilbert de Well, a messuage, and eighty acres of land; and in the 14th of Edward I. Peter de Well, son of Gilbert, had five messuages, a mill, 380 acres of land here, in Caldecot, Cley, and Oxburgh, for life, remainder to Alice, daughter of Roger de Swaffham, for life, remainder to Joan, daughter of Peter, &c. by Robert Person, of Overy.

About the end of Henry III.'s reign, part of this lordship we find held by William Belet, of the earl of Clare. The Belets were a family of great worth and dignity. Michael Belet was a judge itinerant in the reign of Henry II. and another Michael, (if not the same) held the cup at the coronation of queen Alianor, consort of Henry III. Of the same family was also Hervey Belet, a great benefactor to (and by some accounted founder of) Coxford abbey, in Gallow hundred. After this it was in the hands of Ingelram Belet, who was knighted in the 34th of Edward I.

ward I. with Edward, prince of Wales, by bathing. This Ingelram married Avicia, daughter and heir of Robert Bardolph. Robert Belet, his son, died possessed of it about the 8th of Edward II. The earl, as capital lord, had a gallows at Mickel-Dyke, between Barton and this town.—*Rot. Hund.* 3d Edw. I.—*in cur. Receipt. Secii.*

In 1326 Robert de Weil was lord, and presented to the chnrch of St. John in this town (the advowson of which belonged to this lordship) who died about the 9th of Edward III. and soon after this, in the 20th of the said king, it was held by Richard de Walkfare, and John de Benstede, &c. which last presented to the church aforesaid, as lord, in 1349; but in the year 1354, and 1374. John de Denham was lord, and presented to the church of St. John. This John was son and heir of Avice Walkfare.

In the reign of Henry VI. it was purchased by the Lovels, and Ralph Lovel, esq. presented as lord in 1458, in which family it continued till it was sold to the Athows, in the reign of James I. and Thomas Athow, esq. presented as lord in 1613, which Thomas was serjeant at law, son of Christopher Athow, esq. of Brisley in Launditch hundred. William Athow, esq. sold this lordship to sir Simon Taylor, of Lyun. By his son, Samuel Taylor, esq. it descended to Andrew Taylor, esq. who dying unmarried, this estate came to William Fowkes, esq. by his wife, sister of the said Andrew.

ASHFIELD and JOICE'S MANOR. At the survey, Ribald, lord of Mildham in Yorkshire, held under Alan, earl of Richmond, and lord of Swaffham in Norfolk, sixty acres of land in Beecham, valued at the survey at 5s.

In

In the reign of Henry III. it was held by Richard de la More of lady Mary Nevill, a descendant of Ribald, by the service of a tenth part of a fee; and William de la More was lord in the 3d of Edward I. in the 20th of Edward III. Roger de Dersingham; soon after it came to John Joice, who conveyed it with the homages and services of several persons, in the 50th of that king, to John Fitz-John, alias John de Thorpe, and his heirs. John Ashfield, esq. of Stow Langtoft in Suffolk, died seised of it in 1394, and left to each of the churches of Beecham 40d. Robert Ashfield, esq. his son, died possessed of manors in this town, Barton-Bendish, Cockley-Cley, Shingham, and Caldecote; and lands in Hilgay, Southery and Fordham, anno 1459.

Thomas Jermyn, of Rushbrooke in Suffolk, esq. in the 11th of Henry VIII. bought of Thomas, earl of Surrey, the custody of the lands, and the heir of George Ashfield, of Stow Langtoft, named Robert, and married him to Maud, his fourth daughter.

Soon after this it came to the family of the Lovels, lords of Well-Hall, and became united to it, and so continues; being conveyed from the Athows, so to sir Simon Taylor, and Andrew Taylor, esq. and to William Folkes, esq. in right of —— his wife, sister and co-heir of the said Andrew.

CHERVILLE'S MANOR. On the deprivation of Alfeith, a free-man, Roger Bigot, ancestor of the earls of Norfolk, had a grant of this lordship, and Robert de Vaux held it under Bigot at the survey. To this manor also belonged a church, endowed with thirty acres, valued at 2s. 6d. Harold, who had three men under his protection, and the soc, valued at 40s.

was

was king of England; and this land, on his death' was also granted to Bigot.

This manor took its name from its ancient lords the Cherviles. About the reign of Henry V. on the death of Roger Cherville, the last heir male of this family, it was divided into parts, and came to his daughters and co-heirs; one of which (Christian) was the widow of Richard Grace, and presented to the church of St. Mary in 1425: this Christian was afterwards wife to Thomas Rous, of Walton, but the manor, with the advowson of the church of St. Mary, was in the hands of Thomas Manning, of Ellingham Magna, who presented to that church in 1430; but in 1476 Henry Spelman, esq. of Narburgh, was lord, by the marriage of Christian, daughter and co-heir of Thomas Manning, who died lord, and was found to hold the same by fealty of the manor of Well-Hall, paying the rent of 13s. per ann. Soon after the death of his son John, who died without issue, it came to the family of the de Greys, of Merton, by the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter of sir John Spelman, to William de Grey, esq. in which it continued, till Tho. de Grey, esq. sold it about the year 1722, to Mr. Robert Harvey, whose grandson, Edward Harvey, gent. of Watton, conveyed it to Andrew Taylor, esq. lord of Well-Hall who died lord in 1760, and his estate came to William Fowkes, esq. by the marriage of a sister of the said Andrew.

The lete of this town, with that part of Shingham which is in the hundred of Clackclose, is in the heirs of sir George Hare, bart. the fee is 4s.

In the 16th of Richard II. Thomas Moore, and others, aliened lands here to the priory of Ingham in Happing hundred.

In 1428 the temporalities of the abbey of West Dereham, with the priory of St. Winwaloy, were valued at 4l. 10s. 8d. per ann.

The spiritualities of the college of Stoke by Clare, at 20s. being a portion out of the church of All Saints; and the portion of the priory of St. Neots, in the said church, at 4s. 6d.

The town of Beecham is remarkable for an ancient Saxon dike extending from it to the town of Narburgh, dividing the hundred of Clackclose from the hundred of South Greenhoe. Some conceive that this town takes its name from this dike or ditch, and is called Bycham, *quasi*, by Dic-Ham: but as this dike is generally believed to be raised with its bank, by that monastery, as a boundary of their limits and liberties, in this open champaign country, it seems to us to be so called by the Saxons, before that abbey was founded, which was not before the year 974. This dike in the 3d of Edward I. was called Mickle-dike (or the great dike) and the earl of Gloucester had a gallows here between Barton and Beecham.

BEECHAMWELL ALL SAINTS. This church, which is now in ruins, stood about a quarter of a mile south of the town, in a close near to Well-Hall. It was a single building, built of flint and boulder; the greatest part of the walls, both of the church and chancel, were lately standing, with the east gable of the chancel, and the west one of the church, whereon are the arms of Athow impaling Wingfield, and the year 1612. The length of the church was about forty-two feet, and the breadth about eighteen; and on the north wall is an old en-arched stone monument wrought up with the wall, carved, and rising in

in the center of the arch with a floral pyramid, but no arms or inscription are remaining. The chancel is about thirty-four feet in length, and the same in breadth with the nave, and a very neat arch of stone between the church and chancel is still standing. Near the north-east end of the chancel wall stood, a few years past, a very stately altar monument of marble and alabaster, with a wall-piece of the same, now in entire ruins; but in the year 1721, when we first viewed it, we found this inscription on the body of it.—“*Nomina exituum prædict. Thomæ et Annæ,—1. Wingfield Athow, natus 18 Martii, 1590.—2. Johan. Athow, natus 20 Septemb. 1592, hic duxit in uxorem Ceciliam filiam seniorem Johan. Lunsford militis.—3. Thomas natus 30 August. 1597.—4. Clement, natus 20 August, 1599.—5. Francisca uxor Wilhelmi Waldegrave armig. nata 6 Maii, 1605.—6. Gregorius natus 11 Apr. 1610.—Isti sunt superstites, et insignia eorum locantur hic immediate supra.—7. Elizabetha Athow, nata 10 Martii, 1588, et obiit Sabbati in septimana Pentecost, 1589.—8. Amia, nata 22 Jun. 1594, et obiit 3 Nov. 1597.—9. Dorothea, nata ultimo Maii. et obiit 1 Aug. 1597.—10. Henricus, natus 18 Jun. 1601, et obiit 7 Jan. 1601.—11. Anna nata 13 Noveemb. 1606, et obiit 28 Apr. 1607.—Insignia defunctorum locantur hic in occidentali parte.*”

Under this inscription another, viz. the names by which the several coats are borne, in the highest two escutcheons; in the first Athow and Curson are quartered; in the eschutcheon upon the same, 1. Wingfield, 2. Bovile, 3. Gowfell, 4. Albany, earl of Arundel.—In the second, 1. Wingfield, 2. Bovile, 3. Gowfell, 4. Fitz-Allen, earl of Arundel, 5. Baron of Clun, 6. Albany, earl of Arundel, 7. Kivelioc, earl of Chester, 8. Meschines, earl of Carlisle, 9. Lopus,

earl of Chester, 10. Hamlin Plantagenet, earl Warren and Surrey, 11. earl Warren and Surry, 12. Theould, marshal of England, 13. the earl marshal, 14. Strongbow, earl of Pembroke, 15. Macmorrow, king of Linster in Ireland, 16. Dorwood, 17. Coxall, 18. Harsike, 19. Calye, 20. Wingfield.

On the west end of the said monument was then, 1721, remaining the quartered shield of the above personages.

This church, (as we have observed) is now in ruins; weeds, briars, elders, &c. growing therein, and lies open for cattle, &c. to enter. Its fall was owing to this; the lords of the manor of Well-Hall having the privilege of burial in the chancel, were obliged, by immemorial custom, to keep in repair that part of the chancel to which their burial place belonged; and on the conveyance of the lordship to the late lords, this being contested, and not set aright in time, not only the chancel, but the whole church fell by this neglect; and the aforesaid elegant monument being by this means exposed to all injuries, is now ruined, and beat into pieces; and it is a matter of great concern, that monuments set up in sacred places should be thus violated, when they serve also for many noble ends and services, being the best of evidences to prove descents and pedigrees, memorials to put men in mind of their own mortality, and examples, whereby men may be incited to imitate those virtues which have rendered others honorable and praise-worthy. This monument was in memory of Thomas Athow, esq. serjeant at law, who repaired this church in 1612, after it had been useles many years, and was buried here September —, 1630, and of Ann his wife, daughter and heir of John Wingfield, esq. who brought by marriage the above-observed noble quartered

tered coats into the Athow family. The Athows were a very ancient family. William Atte Howe flourished in the reign of Henry III. and died in his pilgrimage to St. James, of Compostella in Spain, leaving Richard Atte-Howe, his son and heir, who held lands in Sengham and Taterford, by knight's service.—*Rot. Aff. 68. 15 Ed. I.*

In the yard near to the church, lies a good bell on the ground, with these arms,—Ermin, three bells, and this inscription in old characters:—*Duleis Melis
fisfo * Camp'a Voco Mich'is.*—In the reign of Henry I. this church is styled Great Bicham.

The capital lords of the fee always reserved the patronage of this church to themselves till it came to the crown.

In 1392, Ralph Cook, rector, was buried in the chancel of this church; as was also Thomas Cantrell in 1434.

In archbishop Parker's Certificatorium, Thomas Watson, rector of this church, is styled, “*Dns. Tho. Watson, presbyter conjugatus, satis doctus, residet, hospitalis ibidem, non praedicat, nec licentiatus duo.*”

In 1603 the rector returned 224 communicants in this town.

John Walpole, by will, in 1433, bequeaths a legacy to the guild of St. Ann in this church.

Peter Langwade Capellan, gives by will, dated November 4, 1446, to this church, four marks to buy a silver cup.

D 3

This

* *Campana Michaelis.*

This church is a rectory, valued at 6l. 13s. 4d. discharged of tenths and first fruits, being (as given in) of clear value 29l. per ann. Old value twelve marks. Prior of St. Neot's portion at 4s. 5d. prior of Stoke's at 20s. Peter-pence 15d.

On July 17, 1721, this church was consolidated with the churches of St. John and St. Mary in Beechamwell.

The church of St. John (which is now in ruins) stands on the north-west part of the township of Beechamwell; part of the north wall of the nave is standing, as is part of the four-square tower as high as the sounding windows; which tower and church was built of flint, &c. The church, as appears from the foundation, was about 56 feet in length; and, on the scite of the church, some poor people have made themselves little cottages.

The patronage of this church seems to have belonged always to the lords of Well-hall, and they who held that lordship of the capital lord presented to it. Hugh de St. Philibert was patron about the beginning of Edward I.

In 1475 this rectory was valued at 2l. 8d. Clement Athow, rector, was buried here April 12, 1655.

It is a rectory, valued at 5l. 6s. 8d. discharged of first fruits and tenths, together with the rectory of St. Mary, to which it was consolidated May 29, 1686, and is of the yearly value of 48l. 8d.

The church of St. Mary stands at the east end of the town of Beechamwell; it has a nave, with a south aisle annexed, and a chancel built of flint stone, boulder,

boulder, &c. The nave is in length about twenty-nine feet, and in breadth, with the south aisle, about twenty-six. On the pavement, near the east end, lies a grey marble, on which is a demi-portraiture of a priest, hands erect and conjoined: and on a brass plate this inscription,—*Hic jacet Dns. Jhesus, Grimston quonda rector isti ecclie, qui obiit viii die mens. Novemb. Anno Dni. M.cccc. xxx. cuj. aie. p'pilietur Deus, Amen.* In a north window, near the pulpit, is a shield, with the arms of Beckingham.

This nave is covered with reed, and has a porch annexed to it, covered with tile. At the west end of the nave is a round tower of flint, &c. On this (which rises as high as the roof of the nave) is raised an octangular one, (and on that a shaft, covered with lead, is a weather-cock) and one bell.

There was a church here in the time of the Conqueror, as appears from Doomsday book; and Harold, as we there find, had the soc of that manor to which this church belonged.

The south aisle, which has been erected not many centuries, is covered with lead, and has served for a chapel to a chauncry priest. On the pavement before the east end lies a grey marble, with the portraiture of a priest vested for the altar; but the plate of brass, with the inscription, and other brass ornaments, are now reaved.

The chancel is separated from the nave by an old wooden screen, and is about twenty-six feet in length and thirteen in breadth, covered with reed. In the upper south window are the figures of St. Augustine and St. Dunstan, the archbishops, painted in the glass. On the north side is a vestry, having a stone

stair-case, by which it appears here was formerly a room over it, but the door is now taken away; this is covered with lead.

Some years past, Mr. Ibbot, the rector, found under the pavement of the chancel, two pieces of alabaster, about two feet each in length; one piece had the effigies of two persons taking down our Saviour from the cross, that of the Virgin, and St. John standing by the cross; the other had that of St. Peter, with a key and a book in his hands; they had been curiously gilt and painted, were well carved, and no doubt were buried here about the time of the Reformation, as are many other such-like figures, most probably, in other churches.

That there was a church here, and endowed with 30 acres of land, at the conquest, appears from the general survey; the patronage of it was then belonging to that manor which Roger Bigot held, which is now called the manor of Cherville's, and it continues in the said lordship at this day.

In 1476, this church was valued at five marks; and in 1603, the rector returned 224 communicants in the township here.

Nathaniel Garey, A. M. the succeeding rector, was sequestered, and suffered much during the time of the usurpation.

Christian Grace died in 1427, and was buried in the church of St. Mary Beechamwell, near to her husband Richard Grace.—John Manning, of Ellington Magna, died in 1430, and was also buried here.

This

This church is valued at 4l. 6s. 8d. discharged of tenths and first fruits, and is valued with St. John's at 48l. per ann. clear value. The old value of the church was five marks; Peter-pence 8d.

In 1764, the Rev. Thomas Ibbot was presented to the united rectories of Beechamwell St. John, St. Mary, and All Saints, by Ursula Folkes, and her sisters.

BEXWELL, takes its name from a spring or well in the town, and a beck, or run of water, that has its rise from it, called, in the Saxon age, Bechesuella and Bekeſuella. In that age it was part of the possessions of the monastery of Ely. At the grand survey, St. Audrey (that is, the church of Ely) held one servus, a carucate in domain, and one amongst the tenants, seven villains, one servus, ten acres of meadow, valued at 20s. per ann.

This lordship of Bexwell was held in the 12th of Henry II. by William de Bekewell of Nigell, bishop of Ely, by half a fee; and the ancestor of this William was enfeoffed thereof in the time of Hen. I. The lordship appears in the reign of Henry III. to consist of two moieties; one of them was held in the 41st of that reign by William de Bexwell, who then had the assise of beer and bread of his tenants.

In the preceding year, the said king granted to this William, and his heirs, free-warren in all his domain lands here, in Ryston, Fordham, Wiggenhall, Walsoken, Marham, Hilgay, Dunham, Crimplesham, and Fincham, in Norfolk, a weekly market here on Thursday, and a fair to be held every year for three days, on Monday in Whitunday week, and the two following days; dated at Walsingham the 17th day of

of March; which grant was afterwards, on June 26, in the 4th of Henry IV. exemplified. Soon after, taking part with the rebellious barons, his estate was taken from him by the king, and given to Jeffrey de Scalarijs; but in the 49th of the said king he occurs lord.

In the 3d of Edward I. the privileges abovementioned, with waifs, &c. and the leet here, and in Ryston and Fordham, were allowed to William de Bekeswell. In the 1st of Edward VI. John Bexwell alias Shoreditch, died seised of it; and Henry Bexwell, esq. dying in 1654, left it to his daughter and heir Frances, married to Robert Aprice, esq. of Washingly in Huntingdonshire, who conveyed it to sir John Holland, of Quiddenham in Norfolk, bart. and from that family it came to John Holt, esq. of Redgrave in Suffolk, about the beginning of the reign of George I. in which family it remains.

The other moiety was held by Hermerus de Bekeswell, in the 4th of king John, when Thomas de Ingoldesthorpe had the dower of Sibill, his wife, assigned him here, she being the relict of Peter de Bekeswell.

In the 6th of Edward I. the bishop of Ely had the advowson of the church here.

About this time Stephen de Mushill, (who gave name to a house in the parish) Stephen de Dunneby, and John de Dean, of Dean in Northamptonshire, held a messuage, and 120 acres of land, with free tenants, villains, &c. of the bishop of Ely, had free bull and boar, and assise of bread and beer, of their tenants.

In

In the 3d of Edward III. a fine was levied between Hugh Catchare, of Bexwell, querent, and William Attemore, &c. deforcients, of 15 messuages, 188 acres of land, 20 of meadow, 29s. per ann. &c. rents here, in Ryston, Fordham, &c.

After this, we find it possessed by Edward Batchcroft in the time of Henry VII. and William Batchcroft of Bexwell, by his will, dated 8th of March, 1507, desires to be buried in the church of Fincham St. Martin, and gives 13s. 4d. to repair the steeple of Bexwell; this manor here, with that of Waterset in Bexwell, (which he bought of sir Philip Tilney) to his son and heir Richard, (and his heirs) when he cometh to the age of twenty-four years, with all his manors in Norfolk and Suffolk, which were not his wife Margaret's jointure. Richard, his son and heir, died seised of this moiety, and the manor of Waterset, held of the bishop of Ely, June 27, 1549, and left Thomas his son and heir, who was lord in 1572, and Richard Batchcroft in 1642.

In 1658, Francis Batchcroft, esq. dying lord, his sisters and co-heirs sold it to sir John Holland, from which family it came to the Holts, as is above shewn.

Hermerus de Ferrers had also a manor here, with a church endowed with 24 acres of land, valued at 16d. the whole was 12s. per ann. This the said Hermerus seized, but the lord before him had only the protection of the free-men, &c.

Roger Bigot had also at the survey a lordship. R. son of Erluin, held 20 acres, valued at 2s. 8d. In the Confessor's time, a free-man held it of Harold. This lordship of Hermerus de Ferrers, and that

that of Bigot, came soon after to the barons of Wormegay, and made part of that honor, held by the lords Bardolph.

In the 41st of Henry III. William de Bekeswell held half a carucate of William lord Bardolph, and paid to him half a mark per ann. About the same time Robert Catt held the third part of a fee of the lord Bardolph.

About the beginning of the reign of Edward I. John de Mushill, and Nicholas de Stradset held here in dower, with his wife, a messuage, 46 acres of land, and five of meadow, in domain of the said lord, paying 5s. per ann. and in the 14th of that king, a fine was levied between Henry le Catt, querent, and Walter de Thorpe, deforciant, of messuages, lands, rents, two pools here, &c. which Stradset and his wife held in dower, now conveyed to Henry, and this was held by the heirs of Catt in the 20th of Edward III.

In the 16th of Henry VI. John Stourton and others were pardoned for purchasing without licence of the dean of Wells, 300 acres of land and meadow here, and in Roxham, &c. held of the honor of Wormegay. This afterwards came to the Batchcrofts, and so was united to the aforesaid lordships.

Rainald, son of Ivo, is also found to have a lordship here, which came soon after to the earls of Clare, and was part of the manor of Crimblesham, which extended into this town.

In the reign of Edward I. William Catchare held one messuage, &c. in Bexwell, in domain of the prior of Shouldham, paying 30s. per ann. and had a free

a free bull and boar, and assise of his tenants; the prior held of Richard lord Fitz-John, and he in capite; and before this, the family of Belet, in the 52d of Henry III. possessed lands here held of the earl of Clare, and paying a quit-rent for the same of 10s. per ann. Robert Belet died seised of it in the 8th of Edward II. This came to the Weasenhamns, and was conveyed by them to John de Bekewell, and so became united to the then manor of Bexwell.

Ralph lord Bainard had also the grant of a lordship here, valued at 40s. One of the freemen, who held 30 acres, was claimed by way of an exchange by the earl Warren. All Bexwell was half a leuca long, and half a one broad.

This lord Bainard's manor lay principally in Fincham, and extended here, and was forfeited by William lord Bainard, in the reign of Henry I. The chief of this fee seems to have been united very early to the other manors. All the account we meet with is, that the Finchams, of Fincham, held lands here of the earl Warren. About the beginning of Edward I. William Catchare held a parcel of arable land of Stephen de Dunneby, and John de Dean, paying 2s. per ann. which Stephen held of Roger de Well, and Roger of the earl Warren.

In the 23d of Edward I. and in the 45th of Edward III. Stephen de Talbot, of Fincham, held lands here; soon after, it is probable, the whole was united to the aforesaid manor.

The leet was formerly in the abbot of Ramsey, and was late in sir George Hare, bart. Leet fee six-pence halfpenny.

The

The tenths of this town, with Ryston, were 7l. deduct 1l. rem. 6l. the temporalities of the prior of Shouldham here, were valued in 1428, 30s. of the abbot of Ramsey, 15s. 2d. of the prior of Westacre, 12d. the prior of Pentney had lands held of the lord Bardolph.

The church of Bexwell is dedicated to St. Mary, and built of rag or car-stone, dug out of the neighbouring pits; it has a nave and chancel, both of equal height and breadth, and covered with lead. At the west end stands a round tower, and on that an octangular one; the quoins of every angle are of free-stone, and the upper part embattled; a work of later date probably erected on the decay of the old round tower about 1517, when William Batchcroft, of this town, by his will, bequeathed "to the steyp 14s. 4d." In this tower hangs one bell. The nave is about forty-six feet in length, and nineteen in breadth.

At the west end, on the pavement, lies a marble grave-stone—*Henry Bexwell, esq. buried July 8, 1654, aged 73.*

Higher up another—*Gregory Bexwell, esq. buried March 15, 1644, aged 67*—with the arms of Bexwell on it.

A third—*Richard Batchcroft, esq. buried March 1642, aged 80.*

Against the south wall of the nave is a mural monument of alabaster; on the summit are three shields;—Bexwell impaling Pratt—Bexwell alone, and Pratt alone. On a black marble in the centre—"In hac nave subpositæ sunt reliquæ Henrici Bexwell in hoc agro

agro Norfolc. armig. in quo gens illa nobilis et antiqua mascula definit, ad senium vergens uxorem duxit Ursulam e proxima Prattorum de Riston nobili itidem prosapia oriundam, e qua tres habuit liberos, Gregorium, Susannam, vivente patre mortuos, et Franciscam, solummodo superstitem. Natus erat Henricus Octob. 17, 1581, obiit Julii 8. 1654. Miserens Ursula hoc fixum fixum voluit."—On each side of this inscription is a lace or fillet by way of ornament; over that on the right hand, is an hour glass; and over that, on the left, a book is carved. On the basis—" Tu temet lector lectites diesq. tuos numera, &c. Ut Psal. 90, 12.

Opposite to this, on the north wall, is another mural monument of black and white marble, with the shield of Batchcroft impaling Longe; and thus inscribed—" Hic jacet Franciscus Batchcroft de Bexwell in agro Norf. armig. qui uxorem duxit Margaretam Roberti Longe de Foulden, armig. filiam, adhuc superstitem. Sobolem nullam, cohæredes forores suas charissimas, Annam, Elizabetham et Aliciam reliquit. Quæ memoriae suæ sacr. hoc condiderunt monumentum. Obiit 13^o die Novemb. Ao. ætat suæ 42, Ao. Dni. 1658."

The chancel is in length about twenty-four feet. On the pavement are several grave-stones.

The present value is 7l. 11s. 8d. and is discharged.

March 7, 1769, the Rev. Richard Oram was presented to this rectory by the lord bishop of Ely, who in 1770 presented the Rev. John Dickinson.

BOUGHTON,

BOUGHTON, or BUCKTON, called Buchetuna in Doomsday, from a winding water or rivulet that divides it from Barton and Oxburgh, or from that large pond on the hill, in the centre of the town, and then consisted of two lordships, Over-hall and Netherhall; thus, Buxton, or Buckston, in South Erpingham hundred, is wrote Buchestuna in Doomsday-book; also Buckworth, and Buckbrooke.*

OVER-HALL. On Turchill's deprivation this lordship was granted by the Conqueror to Rainald, son of Ivo, and was valued at 40s. at the survey at 62s. 6d. All the town was five furlongs long, and four broad, and paid 8d. to a 20s. gelt.

From Rainald, the capital lord, it came to the earls of Clare; and in the reign of Henry III. Richard Fitz-Simon held the fourth part of a fee of the earl of Clare; the said Richard had also a carucate of the king, paying six marks per ann. into the Exchequer. This was the land of William Bigot, escheated to the king; which six marks seem to be granted afterwards to Miles de Brompton, who in the 3d of Edward I. released all his right in the said land, and the rent of six marks per ann. aforesaid, to Richard.

Aster this, Roger de Backton was lord, and gave, by deed without date, to the abbey of West Dereham, lands in the field of Kyppehow, and the liberty of half a fold-course here.

In the 9th of Edward II. Thomas de Hindringham possessed it, and it came to John de Wilby by marriage of one of his daughters and co-heirs.

In

* Parkin.

In the 3d of Henry IV. John de Wilby occurs lord. After this, Richard Tooth, of Wereham granted it to Roger Davy, and John Davy, esq. his son, of Bircham-Tofts in Smithdon hundred; on his death it descended to Margery, wife of Alexander Marshal, as next heir at law. Her daughter and heir Elizabeth, brought it by marriage to David Orrell, whose son, sir Lewis Orrell, sold it to George Monox, esq. citizen and alderman (afterwards knight and lord mayor) of London, who kept his court here October 18, in the 18th of Henry VIII. as did Thomas Monox, esq. in the 25th of the said king. After this it came to the Lovels, lords of Nether-Hall; and sir Thomas Lovel, of Harling, sold it in the 24th of queen Elizabeth, to Francis Gawdy, esq. serjeant at law, and afterwards lord chief-justice of the common-pleas; by the marriage of whose grand-daughter it came to Robert Rich, earl of Warwick. From this family it was sold about the beginning of the reign of Charles I. to sir John Hare, of Stow-Bardolph, whose immediate heir and descendent sir George Hare, bart. was the late lord.

NETHER-HALL. Ailad was lord of this manor in the Confessor's time, but at the survey, Ralph Bainard, a Norman baron. To this belonged a church, endowed with twenty acres, valued at 20d. the lordship was worth 40s. per ann. and socmen belonged to it, who held lands, &c. valued at 10s. per ann.

William, lord Bainard, rebelling against Henry I. forfeited it, and that king gave it to Robert, a younger son of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, ancestor to the earls of Clare. From this Robert the noble family of Fitz-Walter, barons of the realm, descended. In the time of Henry III. John de Aula (or Hall) held the fourth part of a fee of Robert, lord Fitz-Walter;

and in the said family it was in the 3d of Edward I.

In the 21st of Edward III. John de Aula gave to John de Well, citizen of Norwich, and John Half, chaplain of Broughton; a messuage, lands, &c. but in the 24th of that king, sir Robert de Cawston was lord, his bailiff giving in his accounts for it, on the feast of St. Margaret.

In the 37th of the said reign Richard Fransham, rector of Aylmerton, kept his court as lord. Soon after this it was in the family of the Lovels, of Barton Bendish. Thomas Lovel, esq. by his last will, dated August 16, 1421, wills this manor, &c. to remain in his feoffees hands *till his debts be paid*, which descended to him from his father William. In this family it remained till sir Thomas Lovel sold it to Gawdy, and so came to the Hares; sir George Hare being the late lord.

The lete was in sir George Hare, bart. lord of the hundred.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and is an ancient building, built of flint and boulder; the nave is about thirty-six feet in length, and about twenty-three in breadth, covered with thatch; at the west end stands a four-square tower of the aforesaid materials, embattled with quoins, &c. ornamented with four pinnacles of free-stone; on this a spire of wood covered with lead: this tower was erected about the year 1416, when John Elvered, rector of Oxburgh, left by will, 3s. 4d. to the new tower here, in which hang three bells. The chancel is in length about twenty-five feet, and in breadth about sixteen, covered with thatch, &c. On the top of the spire was

was a cross, which in 1644 was taken down, and the churchwarden then paid 3s. 4d. on that account, and charged in his rates, as he did 6s. 8d. for one Gelly's taking a view * of the church, and charged 2s. for going to Lynn to take the covenant.

Roger de Hingham, rector here in the reign of Henry III. gave considerable lands to the abbey of West Dereham, with his body to be buried there.

About this time the rector had a manse and thirty acres of glebe, and the prior of Dunmow was patron.

Henry Ratcliffe, earl of Sussex, on the dissolution of Dunmow priory, obtained the advowson of the king; and in 1553 the rector was deprived, being a *married* priest.

In 1603 the rector returned sixty communicants here.

About 1683 the Rev. Henry Meriton, senior, purchased the advowson —— Dashwood, esq.

This is a rectory, valued in the king's books at 10l. per ann. and being in clear value 49l. is discharged of first fruits.

Gilbert, earl of Clare, confirmed the gift of Richard Fitz-Simon, of two parts of the tithe of his demesne land here to Stoke, *juxta* Clare, and 5s. rent per annum.

* This view was to break in pieces the pourtraitures of Saints in the windows; the *Orate pro anima*, on gravestones, &c.

The spiritualities of the priory of Dunmow were valued at 20s. a portion of tithe given that house, probably on its foundation, by the lord Bainard.

The temporalities of the prior of Shouldham, in 1428, were valued at 3l. 10s. per ann. Most of this came to the Bedingfields, with the grant of the manor of Cavenham in Wereham, by Henry VIII. The prior's manor there extended into this town.

The abbot of Dereham's temporalities were valued at 3l. 4s. 8d. in 1428. This was land of the fee of Winwaloy priory, and held by the Lovels of Barton of the abbot. The spiritualities of Westminster abbey at 20s.

The tenths were 4l. deducted 13s. 4d. on account of the lands held by the religious, and charged to them.

In 1765, the Rev. John Daville presented himself to this rectory, as patron of the church.

CRIMPLESHAM, wrote in Doomsday-book Crepelesham. Rainald, son of Ivo, had a grant from the Conqueror of the lordship that Ailid, a free woman, was deprived of, which she possessed in king Edward's reign.

In the same town Turchill held a carucate of land, &c. When Rainald had the grant of these, they were valued at 8l. per ann.

All Crimblesham, with Toimere, a town adjoining, was one leuca long, and a leuca broad, and paid 8d. to the gelt, when the hundred paid 20s. whoever was lord.

Rainald

Rainald was a Norman baron, attended William duke of Normandy in his invasion; and on the conquest of England was rewarded for his services with this lordship, and nine others in the hundred of Clackclose, three in Freebridge hundred, one in Grimshoe hundred, four in South Greenhoe hundred, three in Weyland hundred, one in Launditch hundred, one in Mitford hundred, one in Gallow hundred, one in Brothercross hundred, one in Holt hundred, three in North Greenhoe hundred, one in Loddon hundred, four in Eynsford hundred, one in Taverham hundred, five in South Erpingham hundred, one in Tunstead hundred. From Rainald it came to the earls of Clare. Gilbert Clare, earl of Clare, gave the church of Crimplesham, as lord, in the reign of William II. to the priory of Clare.

This Gilbert is called in Doomsday-book Gilbert, son of Richer, earl of Brion in France, and attended the Conqueror into England; was ancestor of the earls of Clare. He, his son and wife, were great benefactors to the abbey of Bec in Normandy; and as this Gilbert had the lordship of Clare in Suffolk in 1190, which was afterwards a cell of Benedictine Monks to that abbey, so it is reasonable to conclude, that he was also lord of this town; and Gilbert, son of Richard, who died in 1151, we are told by a French antiquary, was buried at Clare, a cell which Gilbert his grandfather had given to the monks of Bec.

STOKE-CLARE PRIORY, OR COLLEGE MANOR.
Richard de Clare, earl of Clare and Gloucester, is said to have removed the cell at the priory of Clare to Stoke-Clare in Suffolk, in 1224, and to have endowed it with a lordship in this town; and in the 52d of Henry III, that prior had a park here.

John de Aula, or Hall, of this town, held a mes-
suage, &c. of the prior, in the 17th of Richard II.
Thomas Dereham held it of the prior of Stoke-Clare,
in the 2d of Henry IV. At the dissolution it was
granted to the Derehams; Thomas Dereham, esq.
held it of the crown by socage, in the 2d and 3d of
Philip and Mary.

The temporalities of this house (being a college)
when dissolved, were valued at 3l. 1s. 6d.

PRIOR of TUNBRIDGE'S MANOR. Richard de
Clare above-mentioned, founder of this priory, en-
dowed it with a lordship in this town. Walter Davy
held it in the reign of Henry III. of the priory, by
the eighth part of a fee; and in the 25th of Ed-
ward I. certain lands here, called Inglewith, Staf-
ford, North and South Field, belonged to this pri-
ory. In the 8th of Edward III. and the 3d of
Henry IV. the heirs of Davy are said to possess it.

On the dissolution it came to the crown, and so
remained, till on the 20th of October, in the 6th of
James I. it was granted to Robert and Thomas Dere-
ham, for the sum of 64l. 1s. 8d.

**CRIMPLESHAM'S, TALBET'S, COLDHAM'S, and
WEASENHAM'S MANOR.** Besides the two lordships
above specified, several persons held of the earls of
Gloucester and Clare (the capital lords) certain lands,
and had an interest herein. Gilbert de Crimblesham
was lord.

King John, in his 18th year, October 11, granted
to John de Pavilli, clerk, all his lands here which
were Roger de Crimblesham's, dated at Lynn; and
this was but a few days before his death. Theodore
de

de Crimblesham was lord in the 34th of Henry III. and in the following year, the earl of Gloucester, as capital lord, had the privilege of a gallows, felon's goods, &c. frank-pledge, assise, the leet of his tenants, and would not permit the king's bailiff to enter into his lordship. William Criketot, who married Maud, daughter of Peter de Crimblesham, held in her right messuages, land, &c. and had free bull and boar.

Anselm de Lound had also the 8th part of a fee, which came by his daughter to Robert Bardolph, and so to sir Ingelram Belet. Ralph de Wereham held in the said reign of Henry III. a messuage, land, &c. in demean; and William de Bereford messuages, land and meadow, of the earl of Gloucester, by the 8th part of a fee.

In the 21st of Edward III. Ralph de Stafford conveyed to John de Weasenham, citizen of London, a lordship from the heirs of Margaret his wife. Maud de Bereford, also, in the 20th of Edward III. the 8th part of a fee; and Stephen de Talbot held lands here, in West Derham, &c. in the 45th of Edward III.

After this, in the 22d of Richard II. it was in the family of the Derehams. Ralph de Dereham held the 8th part, and the 6th part of a fee of Roger Mortimer, earl of March, in this town, Derham, &c. and in the 18th of Edward IV. Thomas Dereham, esq. died seised of the manor of Weasenham, held by the 4th part of a fee.

In the reign of James I. Thomas Dereham, esq. was lord of Weasenham, Goldham, and Talbot's manors, all which being united, were sold by the

Derehams to the Soames; and colonel Edward Soame died lord in 1706, whose daughter and heir Mary brought them by marriage to Soame Jenyns, esq. of Bottisham hall in Cambridgeshire, (son and heir of sir Roger Jenyns, knt. by Elizabeth, daughter of sir Peter Soame, bart.) member of parliament for the town of Cambridge, and one of the honorable lords of trade and plantations.

In the 32d of Henry VIII. Thomas Dereham had the grant, December 8, of the messuage and lands here belonging to the abbey of West Dereham.

The leet was in sir George Hare; the fee 16d. The tenths were 5l. 14s. 8d. deducted 1l. 6s. 8d.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and was a rectory. Gilbert de Clare, earl of Clare and Brion in Normandy, gave in the reign of William II. the lordship and the church of St. John of Clare in Suffolk, to the abbey of Bec in Normandy; and this church was confirmed to them by pope Alexander III. and was appropriated, the spiritualities being taxed at twenty marks, (a vicarage was settled, valued at 40s.) and there belonged to it a manor with fifty acres of land.

The prior and convent of Stoke-Clare presented till the dissolution.

In 1603, the rector returned eighty-nine communicants.

In 1608 the bishop of Ely presented, the appropriated rectory, and the advowson of the vicarage being granted to that see, on the exchange of lands belonging to that see and the crown, by act of parliament.

After

After this we meet with no presentation, the great and small tithes being leased out by the bishop of Ely to his tenant, and so is now served by a stipendiary curate, and still stands charged at 8*l.* as a vicarage in the *Valor Beneficiorum.*

In 1735 the Rev. William Harvey was licensed to this vicarage, or curacy, by the lord bishop of Ely, who, August 15, 1774, presented the Rev. Richard Whish.

This church is a single pile, with a chancel covered with reed, and built of coarse stone found in the neighbourhood; has a square tower embattled, &c. with five large bells. On the pavement of the church lie some old marble grave-stones deprived of their brasses, in remembrance probably of the Derehams.

Baldwin Dereham, gent. of Crimleham, by his will dated in February, 1527, requires to be buried in the church, near the south door; and in the reign of Henry VI. there was a chauncry founded here for Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Dereham, esq. of this town, daughter and heir of Baldwin Vere, of Denver, esq. Thomas Dereham, esq. was buried here in the 13th of Edward IV.

In the windows were formerly the arms of Bexwell and Gillour, also the arms of Scales and Bardolph.

In the church-yard is an altar tomb in memory of Thomas Bishop, gent. who died in 1703, aged 72.

Queen Elizabeth, on the petition of Henry lord Wentworth, granted August 8, anno 27, to Theophilus

philus Adams, and Thomas Butler, of London, gent. certain messuages, with considerable lands, late belonging to the college of Stoke, held of the king, as of the honour of Clare, in socage, by Thomas Crimplesham.

The town, says Mr. Parkin, takes its name from a small *creeping* run, or stream of water, here rising, and proceeding to West Dereham.

TOIMERE, was a town near to Crimplesham, and held by Rainald, son of Ivo, at the survey, and was included in its length, &c. and gelt under Crimplesham, having the same lord.

This lordship came with Crimplesham to the earls of Clare. The town has been destroyed time immemorial; the scite was in or near the closes, now called Great and Little Tomeres, which are now in Stradset, and was standing about the reign of Henry III. It also appears from an old roll, that the leet fee was anciently 6d. and held by the abbot of Ramsey.

Great and Little Tomeres, in Stradset (that is, Shouldham Thorpe) closes were sold by Charles Cornwallis, esq. to Hugh Hare, esq. Nov. 2, in the 17th of Elizabeth, and the late sir George Hare possessed them as lord.

The town took its name from two small meers, or stagnating waters.

DENVER, called in Doomsday-book Danefella and Danefala, seated in a valley by the water.* Here

* Parkin. This remark of our reverend author is erroneous,

Here were two lordships, one of which (afterwards named West-Hall) was held by Hugh, under the earl Warren, who had a grant of it on the deprivation of Aluric, a free-man, who was lord in king Edward's reign. To it belonged a fishery, valued then at 60s. at the survey at 40s. which was claimed by an exchange; the whole was one leuca long, and half a leuca broad, and paid 8d. gelt. The earl had also lands, held before the conquest by Hosmunt, a free-man, and a fishery.

WEST-HALL MANOR. Hugh abovementioned, who was enfeoffed of this lordship by the earl Warren, was ancestor of the family who took their name, according to the custom of that age, from the town. Osbert de Denevela, or Denver, lived in the reign of Henry I. and gave tithe of his lands to the priory of Castleacre, founded by the earl Warren. Walter de Denver, and Alice his wife, were living in the 41st of Henry III. She was one of the aunts and co-heirs of Henry de Walpole, and had in her right a lordship in Walpole. Walter was lord of this manor, and in the said year had the assise of bread and beer, and other liberties. In the 52d of the said reign it was certified that he held one knight's fee; and in the 6d of Edward I. he had the lete, paying 8d. to the bailiff of the abbot of Ramsey, and was fined for *not* being a knight. The heiress of the family was married to the Goddards of Walpole and Terrington, who quartered the arms of Denver.

In the 9th of Edward II. Peter de Spalding presented to the mediety of St. Michael's, of Denver,
as

ous, as indeed are most of his topographical descriptions: the village of Denver is seated on a hill---not in a valley.

as lord of this manor. John, his son, was lord in the 13th of Edward III. and had thirty messuages in this town, with land, &c. and in Hilgay, Downham, Fordham, &c.

In the 20th of that king Richard de Bradenham, and John de Foxley were lords; and in the 9th of Henry IV. John Gourney, esq. died lord, and of West Barsham. In the 47th of Edward III the convent of West Dereham had a patent for this moiety, but we do not find them possessed of it.

In 1395 Walter Goddard presented to the aforesaid mediety as lord.

After this, in 1452, John Bennet, gent. was lord; and by the marriage of Joan, his daughter, it came to Thomas Dereham, esq.

Sir Nicholas Hare presented as lord in 1554, and by his will dated September 26, 1557, conveyed all his interest in this lordship and advowson (after such interests as his cousins Audrey Hobart, and Alice Ruge, her mother, claim therein for their lives) to his heirs; and Michael Hare, esq. his son, by his will, dated 1609, gives this manor, after the death of his brother Robert, to Nicholas Timperley, esq. his nephew.

In 1617 sir Thomas Hobart was lord; and sir Miles Hobart in 1637; and Edward Barber, gent. presented as lord of this manor in 1660. About the year 1726 Mr. Towerson, of Haddenham, in the Isle of Ely, purchased it from the Barbers; and about the year 1730, conveyed it to Roger Pratt, esq. of Riston, father of Edward Pratt, esq. the present

present lord ; but the right of patronage was sold off before he purchased it.

EAST-HALT. William, earl Warren, had also another lordship in this town, which Osmund held of the earl. In the said village were five free-men, and the moiety of another &c. under the protection alone of Osmund ; but the abbot of St. Bennet had the soc of two of them ; the whole valued at 40s.

Osmund, who was enfeoffed of this manor, and held it of the earl, was ancestor of the family of de Kailley, or Caleye. John de Kailley died lord about the 8th of king John.

In 1324 Edmund, son of sir Adam de Kailley, presented to a moiety of this church as lord of this manor ; and sir Adam de Clifton was lord and patron in 1349, &c. as heir to the Kailleys. In 1664 Robert Clifton, esq. conveyed by fine all his right in this lordship and advowson to sir William Willoughby.

Edward Willoughby, esq. was lord and patron in 1491, and was buried in the chancel of St. Mary's church in Denver.

John Willoughby, esq. was lord and patron in 1543, and dying in 1557, was buried in this church before the crucifix. It came afterwards to the Gawsells ; Thomas Gawsell, son of Richard Gawsell, esq. of Watlington, married Mary, widow of John Willoughby, esq. and they presented in 1558.

Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Robert Gawsell, esq. brought it by marriage to Robert Barber, gent. by whom he had three sons : first, Edward, lord and
patron

patron of this church in 1660, who married Alice, daughter and co-heir of Richard Batchcroft, of Bexwell, esq. Thomas Barber, esq. took to wife Mary, daughter of Robert Marsh, gent. and was father of Edward, who married the daughter of Mr. Hopkins, of Wilberton in the isle of Ely, who is said to have conveyed it to Mr. Towerson, of Hadham in the said Isle, who was lord in 1726, and soon after sold it to Roger Pratt, esq. of Riston, the late lord.

The tenths were 7l. 4s. Deducted 1l. 10s. Temporalities of Ramsey abbey, 7s.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and consisted of two medietyes, or rectories, one called St. Michael's or West-Hall mediety, the other St. Peter's, or East-Hall mediety. It is a single pile, built of rag-stone out of neighbouring pits, and cambered with pannels of wood, covered with reed; at the west end is a four square tower, and on that an octangular spire of wood, covered with lead, with five bells.

Against the north wall is an achievement with the arms of the professors of physic in the university of Cambridge, and of Caius college, impaling Brady.

On the pavement is a black marble grave-stone, with the said arms, and—"Depositum Roberti Brady. M. D. serenissimus principibus Carolo et Jacobo 2dis. medici ordinarii, regii apud Cantabr. medicinæ professoris, collegii de Gonville et Caius 40 circiter annos custodis vigilantissimi et benefactoris munificentissimi, qui postquam rem medicam et historicam summa diligentia et fide, tam praxi, quam scriptis fæliciter exornaverat apud suos Denveriensis, ubi

ibi premium hauserat spiritum, ultimura clausit diem
Aug. 19, Ao. Dni. 1700, ætat suæ 73."

This worthy gentleman gave a considerable paternal estate in the parish to *Caius college*, and 500l. towards buying a perpetual advowson. Mr. Hearne, the Oxford Antiquary, give him this character—"Rob. Bradius plerisq; omnibus sequioris ævi historicis nostris Anglicanis fit anteferendus."

Against the wall of the chancel rests a grave-stone, with the insignia of a knight templar.—In the windows were the arms of Clifton; also Poynings.

On the outside of the east window of the chancel is a mural monument of stone—*To Francis Jenyn, A. M. 46 years rector here, obt. April 10, 1715, ætat. 70.*

St. MICHAEL'S, or WEST-HALL MEDIETY. Sir Walter de Denver was patron in the reign of Edw. I. the rector had then a manse and sixteen acres of land, valued at six marks and a half: Peter-pence 12d.

William Blakey, rector of this mediety, was deprived in 1553, being a *married priest*.

In 1603 the rector of both medietyes returned 180 communicants.

In 1738 Samuel Steadman, the late rector, D. D. archdeacon of Norfolk, prebendary of Canterbury, held both the medietyes united, valued at 10l. 33s. 4d. and paid first-fruits, &c.

St. PETER'S OR EAST-HALL MEDIETY. Adam de Cayly was patron in the time of Edward I. when it was

was valued at six marks and a half, and paid Peter-pence 12d. there was a manse and sixteen acres of land.

Jeffery Watts, the rector of this mediety, was deprived in 1553, being a *married priest*.

Robert Gibbs, chaplain in 1420, gave by will a silver gilt cup to the high altar, to St. Mary's guild. Edmund Cootes, by will in 1504, gave to the sepulchre light in the church 40s. and two tapers of wax of three pounds weight each; to Our Lady's tabernacle and light 20s.. and twenty moder sheep, with legacies to St. Mary's, Allhallows, and St. John Baptist's guilds.

In this parish is a noble bridge of stone, and a sluice * over the great river Ouse.

From this place began a famous Roman way, extending to Peterborough, over the great level of the fens, about twenty-four miles. Dugdale says it was of gravel, &c. three feet thick and fifty broad, now covered with the moor; that it went first to Charke, thence to March, Plantwater and Eldernel, and so to Peterborough.

Henry VII. in his 1st year, on September 24, granted to Thomas Hatton the office of water-bailiff of Salter's lode, in this parish, during pleasure, with

* Of this Sluice we refer our readers to the particular account of the origin and progress of improvement on that great level of Fen, called BEDFORD LEVEL, given with the hundred of Freebridge Lynn and Marshland, only observing, with a noble author, " that Denver Sluice is the grand *eratrum* of this country."

with the annexed fees, to be received by his own hands.

In 1769 the Rev. James Hicks was presented by Caius college, Cambridge, to the rectory of the two medieties of East-Hall and West-Hall, consolidated by the archbishop of Canterbury, during a vacancy of the fee.

The village of Denver lies on the turnpike-road leading from Lynn-Regis, fourteen miles, and Downham, two miles, to Ely and Cambridge.

DEREHAM, called West Dereham to distinguish it from East, or Market Dereham in Mitford hundred. We learn from the Conqueror's book of Doomsday that there were at that time several fees or lordships in this town.

Hermer de Ferer (or Ferrers) a Norman nobleman, who for his services was rewarded at the conquest with twenty-five lordships in this county, and had by his own power (a practice common on the conquest) seized on, and invaded the lands of thirty-two free-men here. Out of this tenure arose two lordships, that of Curple) and that of Timworth.

CURPLE MANOR, or PENTNEY PRIORY MANOR, assumed its name from its lords. Jeffrey Curple held half a fee in the reign of Henry III. of the honour of Wormegay; and Roger Curple was lord of it in the 3d of Henry III. This Roger gave it to the priory of Wormegay, and his grant was confirmed by lord Bardolph.

After this, when the said priory was united to the priory of Pentney, it was vested in that convent: at

the dissolution of Pentney priory it came to the crown; and, in the 29th of Henry VIII. was farmed by John Dethick, esq. at 4l. 15s. 3d. per ann. of Thomas, earl of Rutland; who had a lease of it from the court of augmentation.

On April 11, in the 4th of Edward VI. it was granted to Thomas Thirlby, bishop of Norwich, and his successors, and was held of that see by sir Simeon Stuart, bart. lately deceased. The seite of it was in a close, called Hall-Clofe, south-west of the abbey of Dereham, and near to the fens.

TIMWORTH MANOR. This manor assumed its name from its lords. Sir William de Timworth was lord in 2d of Henry III. and held the fourth part of a fee of the honour of Wormegay.

In the 5th of Edward II. this lordship was settled on John de Beccles, and Hawise his wife, granddaughter of sir William Timworth.

In the 10th of Edward III. Robert, son of sir Ralph de Hemenhale, knt. settled a moiety of it on their trustees; and Robert de Hemenhale and Richard Batchcroft held it in the 4th of Henry IV. of lord Ba'dolph, as part of the barony of Wormegay.

It was afterwards solely in the family of Batchcroft, lords of Bexwell, and has been enjoyed by the lords of that town; Rowland Holt, esq. of Redgrave in Suffolk, being lord of Bexwell, and of this.

Roger Bigot, ancestor to the earls of Norfolk, had at the survey a lordship valued at 10s. of which six free-men had been deprived, which Hugh held of Roger. In the said town he had sixteen acres, of which

which a free-man was deprived, valued at 12d. and Hugo held it. Roger had also sixty acres of land, of which Godric, a free-man in the Confessor's time, was deprived, held by the said Hugh.

This came by some grant to the abbot and convent of West Dereham; and in the 2d of Henry VI. it appears by the escheat rolls, that Elizabeth, widow of Thomas Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, died seised of the moiety of one knight's fee in West Dereham.*

William, earl Warren, had thirty acres of land given him on the expulsion of a free-man, and half a carucate.

In the 3d of Henry IV. the abbot was possessed of this, *in pure alms*; and the fourth part of a fee, which he held in the reign of Henry III.

Rainald, son of Ivo, had thirty-two acres of land belonging to six free-men; Wihenoc had invaded and siezed on them; the lands of Ivo came after to the earls of Clare. In the reign of Henry III. the abbot held the sixth part of a fee of the heirs of William de Narford, he of the earl of Clare; and in the 3d of Henry IV. the abbot held it of the earl of March, heirs of the earls of Clare.

Ralph, lord Bainard, held at the survey, and Lovel under him, land, &c. out of which the abbot of Ramsey had 20s. rent in king Edward's reign; and there belonged to this manor fifty acres of land, held by free-men in the aforesaid reign, with one carucate and an half, &c. valued at 10s. The abbot of Ramsey had the soc of these men. This last seems to

* The estate of the Bigot's came to the Mowbrays.

have been part of the lord Bainard's manor of Stoke, and was measured with it. On the forfeiture of William, lord Bainard's estate, for his rebellion in the time of Henry I. this came by the king's grant to Robert Fitz-Gilbert, ancestor of the earls of Clare; which Robert was father of Walter Fitz-Robert, one of the witnesses to the foundation deed of Dereham abbey, and who probably granted it to the said monastery.

The abbot of St. Edmund of Bury had a socman, with six acres. The abbot also of St. Bennet of Ramsey had three socmen at the survey, land, &c. valued at 12d.

The lordships above-mentioned being united, and belonging to the abbot and convent of West Dereham, came to the crown on its dissolution, and so remained till granted to sir Thomas Lovel, of East Harling, in the 1st and 2d of Philip and Mary.

The site of the abbey, with the lands following, were granted on December 3, in the 32d of Henry VIII. to Thomas Dereham, esq. of Crimplesham, viz. Carter's Close, Great Moon-Shines, with Dereham Grainge, Barfales, East Brake Close, Fen Crofts, with the fishery in the waters of West Dereham and Roxham, &c. to be held by the 20th part of a fee, and the payment of 46s. 3d per ann. together with West Brake Close, Calf's Close, Oxclose, Heath Close, Old Tallow Beatles, New Tallow Beatles, Church-field, Redhill-field, Well-head-field, Downham-wood, and lands in Feltwell, which the said Thomas died possessed of August 29, 1554; and about the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, sir Thomas Lovel conveyed to Thomas Dereham, esq. his son-in-law, the lordships above-mentioned; all which

which remained in the family of the Derehams till the death of sir Thomas Dereham, bart. when the inheritance came to sir Simeon Stuart, bart. by the marriage of Elizabeth, sister and sole heir of sir Thomas Dereham, who dying August 11, 1761, his son and heir, the lately deceased sir Simeon Stuart, bart. of Hartley Mauduit in Hampshire, was lord, and knight of the shire in parliament for Hampshire, colonel of the second, or South battalion of Hampshire militia, and one of the chamberlains of the tally court in the Exchequer, for life. Elizabeth, his eldest daughter, married Hewar Edgley Hewar, esq. of Clapham in Surrey, and left no issue. Ann, the 3d daughter, married George Bourne, esq. of Enfield in Middlesex, and left a son and a daughter; also Mary and Sophia, the second and fourth daughters.

Elizabeth, who married sir Simeon Stuart, was the only daughter of sir Richard Dereham, bart. of Dereham abbey in Norfolk, by the honorable Frances Villiers, his wife, eldest daughter of Robert, lord viscount Purbeck, and Elizabeth, daughter of the late sir John Danvers, brother to Henry, earl of Danby, and sole heir to her brother sir Thomas Dereham, who died at Rome, in January 1738-9, and by her had first, Elizabeth, married to Hewar Edgley Hewer, esq. of Fotheringay castle in Northamptonshire; he died Nov. 6, 1728, without issue; and second, Ann, married to George Bourne, esq. of Enfield in Middlesex; she died December 7, 1739, and sir Simeon, his only son, who died in 1779. Thomas and James dying in their minority, and other daughters, Mary and Sophia Dereham. Since the death of sir Simeon Stuart, bart. M. P. this estate has been sold to —— Lowe, esq. a banker in London.

The family of de Dereham is of great antiquity. Richard, Nicholas, and Elias de Dereham were brothers, and witnesses to Hubert, the archbishop's foundation deed of the abbey of West Dereham; and from this Nicholas, it is said, the family is descended.

Thomas de Dereham, esq. lord of Crimplesham, was an eminent lawyer in the 5th of Henry IV. and in the 7th of Henry VI. he was justice of goal delivery of East Dereham, for the liberty of the bishop of Ely, and married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Baldwin de Vere, esq. of Denver,

Sir Thomas Dereham was knighted by James I. at Newmarket, Dec. 1. 1617. Thomas his son and heir was created a baronet June 8, 1661, by queen Elizabeth.

Sir Richard Dereham succeeded to this estate in 1682. He wasted his patrimony, and died in foreign parts; so that this estate was conveyed to his relation and cousin sir Thomas Dereham, knt. who for many years was envoy at the court of the duke of Tuscany; after that resided here, and built the stately superb edifice of Dereham abbey, now standing, and lately inhabited by the Right Hon. Charles Henry Coote, earl of Montrath, of the kingdom of Ireland, and one of his Majesty's most honourable privy-council there.

The abbey of West Dereham is nearly a mile south of the parish church; the old gate-house or tower is still standing, and entire, and seems to have been built in the reign of Henry VI. It is a noble, lofty, four-square pile of curious workmanship, of brick embattled; at each corner arises an octangular tower, with quoins of free-stone, and over the arch of the gate

gate, which is of stone, wide and lofty, is this shield: Azure, three buck's heads cabosed, or; the buck's head in base was pierced with a crozier staff, and was the arms of the abbey: this staff has been cut out some time past; but in the bow window of the room over the arch it still stands painted in the glass. The common seal of the abbey was in 1429, and in the reign of Henry VIII. of an oblong form, and red wax—the Virgin Mary standing under an arch, holding in her arms the child Jesus; over her head a star, and on each side of her an angel with a palm branch—the legend, *Sigillum abbatis et conventus Sce. Marie de Derham.*

On each side of this elegant gate, or tower, adjoining to it, sir Thomas Dereham, the envoy, built a long, stately, and lofty wing, with a quadrangle and a cloister on the south side, containing many grand rooms, galleries, &c. like the Italian palaces, and many offices, that it is capable of receiving any prince, and pleases the taste of the most curious judges.

In a wainscotted parlour are these arms over the chimney, the quartered coat of Dereham: Dereham quartering Vere, Goddard; Denver impaling Anderton; and about the room are the arms of several families that married with the Derehams, viz. Fincham, Audley, Lovel, Catlyn, Repps, Guybon, Carville, Hamersley, Montford, Gawfell, Pratt, Heath, Penniston, Painell, Booth, &c. Dereham impaling Scott. Dereham impaling Heath; also Booth, Catlyne; also impaling Haltoft and Bennet.

In this parish, south of the town, near the fens, is a farm-house, called Barsale, accounted formerly as a lordship. Thomas de Barsale was living in the

reign of Edward I. In the 11th of James I. it was settled on Thomas Dereham, esq. on his marriage with the daughter of sir Henry Anderton.

Afterwards it was sold to the Harbords of Gunton, and about twenty years past conveyed by them to Mr. Say, of Downham in this hundred.

The tenths of West Dereham were 10l. deducted 1l. 6s. 8d. Ramsey abbey temporalities were 3s. 6d. The leet was in the late sir George Hare, bart. of Stow Bardolph.

The town, says Mr. Parkin, takes its name from the British word Dur, water, being near the fens, and the river Wisssey; and also having three or four little rivulets or streams of water running through it. Thus Durham, Derby, &c.

Dereham St. Andrew's Church. There were in ancient days two churches in this town, that of St. Andrew and that of St. Peter; that of St. Andrew is the church now standing; and west of this church, in the church-yard, the scite of that of St. Peter's may be perceived. In a small pannell, at the summit of the present church, may be seen the portraiture of St. Andrew painted on the glass.

It is a single pile, built of flint and other stone, in length about fifty-two feet, and in breadth about twenty, with a chancel about thirty-three feet long, and twenty broad, covered with thatch. At the west end of the church is a large round tower, of stone found in pits in this neighbourhood, and called rag-stone, and on that is raised an octangular one of brick, embattled, and coped with free-stone, on the decay of the old tower in the reign of Henry VI. On

On the summit is a cap or cover, with a weather-cock, and in this tower hang four large modern bells.

On the pavement, at the east end, lies a black marble grave-stone, with these arms quarterly, Lovel, Bendish, Muswell, and Brandon.

— *Here lyeth interred the body of Gregory Lovel, esq. born in this parish, who departed this life the 29th day of Aug. Ao. Dni. 1693, in the 63d year of his age.*

Against the north wall of the chancel is a neat marble monument—*To Robert Dereham, esq; * obijt. December 6, 1592, ætat 80.—Also—To Thomas Dereham, esq. obijt. Aug. 29, 1554, ætat. 51.*

On the summit and sides of this monument is the arms of Dereham, with as many quarterings as a German prince.

On the basis of the monument are these verses, now almost obliterated :

*Propater et patruus quanvis sint morte perempti,
Myriades vivent cælis cum conjugi Christo.
Nam pater et patruus Christus, nos sanguine puro
Ut consanguineos sibi fecit adoptianatos.
Sic queis pura fides, queis vita hac, pauper, egenus.
Sunt chari, quamvis cineres conduntur in urna;
Hi tamen ut sancti penetrabunt nubila celsa, his
Vita, salus, spes, pas, æternaq; guadia Christus,*

Against

* This gentleman is said to have left 3l. per ann. to West Dereham, and 2l. per ann. to Crimplesham poor, which was paid 'till sir Thomas Dereham, who rebuilt the abbey, refused to pay it.

Against the said wall is a most elegant, curious monument of marble, made at Florence in Italy, with a large quartered shield, viz. Dereham impaling Vere, Goddard, Denver, Gargrave, Brown, &c.

Under this in a lozenge, **argent**, on a cross gules, five escallops, **or**, with a mullet, **lab**. in the dexter quarter, for difference.—**Villiers**. The ornaments of this monument are highly beautiful, and what is most curious is, that the field, with the bearings on each field and arms, is of marble, all in their proper colours and inlaid.

Against the south wall of the chancel, inclosed with iron rails, is a sumptuous monument of marble and alabaster, rising to the top of the wall; on the summit is gules, a chevron between three mallets, **or**; the crest a hawk on the lure—**Soame**; on the cornish, a Cupid, mourning, with two lamps. On a basis of veined marble stands the effigies of colonel Soame in full proportion, in armour of alabaster; the workmanship of an eminent Italian carver, who, from a curious picture of the said colonel, has taken a wonderful likeness. On the pedestal is this inscription,

In a vault near this place lies the body of the Hon. Col. Edmund Soame, of Derham-Grange in this parish, son of Edmund Soame, of London, merchant, and Mary his wife; which Edmund was one of the sons of sir William Soame, of Thurlow-Hall in Suffolk; and she the daughter of Simon Middleton, of Hackney, in the county of Middlesex, esq. In the reign of king William and queen Mary he went a volunteer into the wars of Ireland, and to their majesties and country's service dedicated the revenues of a plentiful estate, which he inherited; and having a captain's commission given him, behaved himself

In

in all the wars during the reign of that king with such eminent courage and fidelity, that when queen Anne came to the crown, her majesty first rewarded him with a lieutenant-colonel's commission, and afterwards with the command of a regiment; and being by his sovereign sent on an expedition into Spain, died as he was going, at Torbay in Devonshire, Sept. 8. 1706, in the 38th year of his age, being thus immaturely cut off, when he was in pursuit of, and ready to be rewarded with the highest military honours. In the time of peace, and during the recess of arms, he was several years a representative in parliament for the ancient borough of Thetford, in this county, where he approved himself to be as true and faithful a patriot in the senate house, as he was a brave and honourable commander in the field.

In the same vault—*Lies the body of his only sister, Margaret Green, who died August 10, 1710, relict of Giles Green, esq according to her desire, between her husband and her brother; and, in her last will, requested her executrix, dame Elizabeth Jenyns, wife of sir Roger Jenyns, of Bottisham-hall in Cambridgeshire, to erect this monument.*

In the church-yard is an alter monument for—
Thomas Baron, gent. who died Aug. 4, 1725.

Benefactors.—William and John Millsop gave each 20l. in 1660, with which a town close in Whintoft-field was purchased, containing two acres and a half, let at 1l. per annum, and given to the poor.

Gregory Lovel, esq. gave by will 500l. with which land is bought at Upwell in this hundred, let, at above 30l. per annum. He appointed a sermon to be preached in this church on Lady, Mid-summer,

summer, and St. Thomas's day, by the curate of the parish, and 40s. for each sermon to be paid to him, the rest to the most necessitous poor.

In 1706 Mrs. Green, of Dereham Grainge, gave a large silver flagon, and inclosed the communion table with decent rails and banisters.

WEST DEREHAM ABBEY, was founded in the reign of Henry II. by Hubert Walter, then dean of York; the particular year is not known, but was between the year 1168, when he was preferred to that deanry, and the year 1189, * when he was preferred to the fee of Salisbury, having bought the land on which it was built of Geffry Fitz-Geffrey, and belonging to his own fee or lordship.

It was dedicated to God and the Virgin Mary, for regular canons of the premonstratension order, who were to pray for his own soul, the souls of his father and mother, Ralph de Glanvile, justiciary of England (who had the care of his education) and of Berta his wife, as appears from the foundation of the charter. —“Omnib; sancte matris ecclesie filiis p'sentib; et futuris Hubertus, Dei gratia Eboracenfis ecclesie decanus, æternam in Domino salutem.—Prudentis est hiis, que saluti anime proficiunt, dum potest intendere, et transitoriis æterna commutare. Quod quidem intelligentes in honore Dei, et gloriose Virginis Marie, matris ejus quoddam cœnobium premonstratensis ordinis in feodo nostro apud Derham fundavimus, p. salute anime nostre, et patris et matris nostre, et Domini Raduphi de Glanvile, et Domine Berte uxoris ejus, qui nos nutriebant, et p. salute fratrum fororum

* Founded as an old MSS. says, on the feast of the assumption of the blessed Virgin, in 1188.

fororum, consanguineorum, familiarium, et omnium amicorum nostrorum et p. fate domui et canonicis dedimus, et concessimus, et p' senti charta nostra confirmavimus totum tenementum in eadem villa cum 'pertinentiis quod de Galfrido filio Galfridi emeramus,' &c.

The founder was a native of this town, son of Hervey Walter, brother of Theobald Walter, chief butler of Ireland, from whom the noble family of Butler, dukes of Ormond, are descended.

The first preferment in the church that we find him possessed of, was a fourth part or portion of the church of Felmingham in Norfolk ; after this he was dean of York, one of the barons of the Exchequer, bishop of Salisbury, and archbishop of Canterbury, legate to the pope, lord chancellor, and chief-justice of England : no clergyman, before or after him, had so great a power and authority, and no man ever used it with greater prudence and moderation, being the prime minister of Richard I. and king John.

In the 3d year of king John he had a grant of the custody of the castle and forest of Windsor, dated May 4, apud Aumorl. viz. Albemarle in France ; and in the said year, one to recover all his demeans that had been lately alienated—dated at Vernole.

King John, in his 1st year, granted to the abbot and convent a weekly market on Wednesday, and an annual fair for four days, viz. on St. Matthew, and the three following days, with toll, stallage, and all liberties belonging to a market and fair ; dated at Westminster, June 10.

In

In the aforesaid year, king John, by his charter, dated at Roan in France, Sept. 7, at the request of the founder, confirmed to this abbey all their lands, rents, services, and advowsons, which had been given by the founder of his own see, and which he had of Geffrey Fitz-Geffrey, in the town of Dereham, and exempted them from the services which Walter Fitz-Robert did to Hubert (their founder, which shows that Walter was a benefactor) and to Geffrey Fitz-Geffrey, and the services which Hubert did to Walter Fitz-Robert. And, as far as belonged to his regal power, appropriated to them the church of Kirby-Malgedale, which Adam Fitz-Adam gave, the church of Katham, with the appurtenances of the gift of Hugh de Diva. —One knight's fee in Walton of the gift of Margaret, daughter of Alexander le Moine, and of Roger Buch, about which there had been a suit in the king's court, and they, by consent, gave up their right therein. The land at Iclington, which Hubert their founder, and Walter his brother gave, and which Hamo, son of Walter, held, except 30s. rent per annum, belonging to the monks of Iclington. Land and tenements of the gift of their founder in Oxford, held of the priory of St. Fridewide, the rent of 40s. per annum, issuing out of a moiety of the fishery in Marsh-Fen, given them by Hamelen Plantagenet, earl Warren, and Isabel his wife, which William Curteis used to pay him at three terms in the year. What they held in Smalbregg, of the gift of Henry de Pomerai, and Walter de Marmion, paying to the said Walter 20s. per ann. Nine acres given by Simon Briton in the marsh, or sea shore at Wrangle in Lincolnshire, to make salt-pits, with ground for a house, on the Toft of William the priest, by Rythfleet-bridge, with common of pasture for thirty-six cows or oxen.

Forty acres of land in Hillington in Norfolk, the gis of Roger de Pavilla, out of his demean, with liberty of a fold, paying 2s. per ann. the rent of half a mark in Playford, with certain homages, given by Hervey Fitz-Peter, a moiety of the mill at Acton, which Walter, son of Peter de Warham, and the rent of 15s. in the mill of Ringland, which Julian de Swathfield gave; the rent of half a mark out of the mill of Titchwell, which William Lovel de Ibery gave; half a mark's rent given by Peter Fitz-Walter, out of his mill at Irstead, to buy wine for mass in their church, &c. with soc, fac, tholl, and many other royal privileges, all granted by the king, under the hand of Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury:— Witness, Jeffrey, archbishop of York.

Besides the benefactions here confirmed, we find a vast many other persons to have been benefactors to this abbey.

The late Mr. Thomas Martin, of Palgrave in Suffolk, had in his possession an extract from the Ledger-book of West Dereham, taken by Robert Dereham and William Gybon, esqrs.

In the 3d of Edward I. the abbot claimed the lete here of his tenants, and the assise of bread and beer, a fair, toll, waif, &c. The amercements of his men, who were exempt from being impleaded in any court baron, or county court, but in the king's court alone, and a gallows.

Sir William Howard, the famous judge, ancestor of the dukes of Norfolk, gave lands in Tewington and Tilney, in the 29th of Edward I.

In the 18th it appears that the convent was obliged to pray for Adomare de Valentia, earl of Pembroke, as heir to the lord Monchenfy, who had been a principal benefactor.

In the 16th of Edward III. the abbot certified to the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer, the value of their lands, &c. in Dereham, Upwell, Riston, Stradset, Stoke, Wretton, Cockley-Cley, Oxburgh, Caldecote, Shingham, Fincham, Boughton, Barton, Beecham, Wereham, Islington, Thorpe, Lynn St. Peter, and North Lynn, Clenchwarton, Bexwell, Fordham, Watlington, Holkham, Ringland, Weston, Themilthorpe, Carleton, Brooke Ashby, Cleydon, North Tuddenham, &c. in Norfolk.

Henry de Wells, dean of Chapel-field college in Norwich, archdeacon of Lincoln, &c. was a great benefactor, and at his death, 1431, buried here.

Besides their temporal possessions, the abbot and convent had an interest in several churches.

Dereham St. Peter's, given, as it seems, by their founder and appropriated to them, valued at twenty-one marks, and paid Peter-pence 11d. Dereham St. Andrew's, given by sir William de Timworth, Ao. 2°. Henry III. and appropriated. The jury, in the 3d of Edward I. found it to be the gift of that knight; that he held it of R. Curpel, he of the lord Bardolph, who held it in capite, for this grant of sir William Ralph, then abbot, and the convent covenant that he should be partaker of all their prayers, &c. valued at twenty-one marks, &c.

The

The spiritualities of this abbey, with the priory of St. Wynwaly, in Wercham, were valued in 1428 at 81l. 6s. 3d. The temporalities at 1381. 7s. 5d. q. —at the dissolution. Dugdale says, it was in the whole valued at 228l.—Speed, at 252l. 12s. 11d.

In the reign of Henry III. the seal of the abbey was a dexter hand holding a crozier erect, alluding likely to their founder, the archbishop, and the legend —*Sigillum abbatis et conventus de Dereham.*

Paul de Tilney was admitted abbot December 21, 1313, and made to the bishop of Norwich profession of obedience, which was in these words: "Ego frater Paulus, &c. electus Abbas, &c. subjectionem, reverentiam et obedientiam a sanctis patrib; constitutam secundum regulam, &c. Tibi, Domine, Patet Episcopate, tuisq. successorib; canonice substituendis, et sancte sedi Norwic. salvo ordine nostro perpetuo me exhibiturum promitto."

In the 14th of Henry VIII. the bailiff of the bishop of Ely had orders to distrain on the abbot of West Dereham, holding a fishery at March, in the Isle of Ely, by knight's service of that bishop, 5l. being then due, and 2s. for relief. At the dissolution he surrendered the abbey, obtained a pension from the crown of 66l. 13s. 4d. per ann. and in 1544 was instituted rector of Boughton, and died in 1548.

At the dissolution several of the canons of this house were found guilty of incontinency in a most shameful manner.

*Robertus Walsand cum se ia. con-
jugata*

Thomas Munday cum se ia. soluta

*Ric'dus Norwolde diversis, tam con-
jugatis quam solutis, et fatetur
sodom.*

*Johan. Jackson, fatetur voluntar.
pollut.* *fatuntur voluntar.
pollut.*

*Ric'dus Watlington, fatetur volunt.
pollut.*

Thomas Dighton

Pet. Tilney

Roger Gargrave

Tho. Downeham

*Ric'dus Norwolde, alias Marke, dicit in vim jura-
menti, et conscientiae quod si omnes tamen ingenue fate-
rentur sue commissa Dno. Regi ut deberent, reperiret ne
unum quidem ex monachis, vel presbyteris, qui aut utatur
feminæ congressu, aut masculo concubitu, aut pollutione.
voluntar. vel aliis id genus nephandis abusibus quare op-
taret—ex animo ut liceret eis omnibus quotquot velint ulti-
remedio conjugii, et sperat Regiam Majestatem in hoc di-
vinibus missa' esse in terris.—Sic dicit etiam Ric'dus
Watlington.*

*Præterea D. Tilney et Roger. Gargrave, qui gerebant
curam animarum ruri, interrogat de usu nimis sodomit.
dicunt quod illud crimen regnat ut plurimum in presbyteris
tam secularibus et juvenibus qui nondum sunt conjugati, et
illi etiam optarent remedium conjugii talibus concedi.*

In 1553 here remained in charge these following annuities, or pensions, to religious persons of this house: Thomas **Hawe**, 2l. per ann. James Hawe, 1l. 10s. per ann. John Jackson, 5l. per ann. This man was married and divorced from his wife in the reign

reign of queen Mary; he then lived at Werham, probably served the cure there.

This abbey being of the premonstratensian order, it may not be improper to give here the genealogy of it, which was always religiously kept, and observed in all religious houses.

Premonstratini begat Liske.—Liske, a Norman premonstratensian abbey, begat Newhouse.—Newhouse, in Lincolnshire, the first premonstratensian abbey in England, begat Welbeck.—Welbeck, in Nottinghamshire, the third premonstratensian abbey in England, begat West Dereham.—West Dereham, in Norfolk, the 12th premonstratensian abbey in England.

In 1465, the 5th of Edward IV. the state of this abbey is thus represented in a MS. register of the premonstratensian order.

1. *Archiepiscopus Cantuar. est Fundatur.*
2. *Abbas de Welbeck est Pater Abbas.*
3. *Quinq. habet ecclesiæ curati; quidam canonici perpetui, quidam seculares, quidam revocabiles.*
4. *Fundatum erat in honore B. Marie Virginis ad festum Assumptionis, Anno Dom. M.C.LXXXVIII.*

Hubert Walter, the founder, being afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, all his successors in the see of Canterbury from him had the title, and in times of necessity were applied to as founders, or patrons.

The abbot of Welbeck was father abbot, because Dereham had its first canons from Welbeck; and for this reason, when the abbot of Dereham died, the

canons always sent his seal to that father abbot ; and, at the same time, prayed him to fix a day when he would be at Dereham to see them make a fair election of a new abbot, and himself instal him ; and it appears that the abbot of Welbeck presented the new abbot to the bishop of Norwich, for admission, &c.

The very extensive village of West Dereham is situated between the turnpike-road leading from Lynn to Newmarket, and the marsh-grounds.—The church stands on an eminence, which commands a vast prospect over the level of fens into Cambridgeshire and Suffolk ; the lands here are in high cultivation, and the magnificent seat, called Dereham abbey, lately occupied by lord Montrath, is beautifully environed with wood and water. It is four miles from Downham, twelve from Lynn-Regis, and three from Stoke Ferry.

In 1765 the Rev. James Adamson was presented to this vicarage, or curacy.

DOWNHAM, wrote in Doomsday-book Dunham. In ancient accounts it occurs by the name of Downham-Market, and Downham-Hithe: Spelman says the market here was of such antiquity, that he finds it confirmed by Edward the Confessor. The town is seated on a hill to the east of the river Ouse, over which, and the fens, it has an extensive prospect, and takes its name from its scite, a Ham or dwelling on a Dun, Down, or Hill. The principal manor was given by king Edgar, with the hundred of Clackclose, to Ramsey abbey.

ABBOT of RAMSEY'S MANOR. The principal manor here was in the abbot, it extending itself into

this town, and he had the same privileges here as in that village. It appears that king John granted or confirmed a fair here to the abbot, in his 6th year, and the privilege of a gallows here, or hanging malefactors was allowed him in the time of Henry III. On the dissolution of this abbey it was granted by Henry VIII. to Robert Miller, &c. with Wimbotisham, and so passed through several hands to the Hares, sir George Hare, bart. being the late lord.

INGOLDESTHORPE MANOR. At the survey William earl Warren had here land, &c. valued at 12s. 4d. the abbey of St. Bennet of Ramsey had the soc and protection, but the earl laid claim to it by an exchange. This appears to be held under the earls Warren by the Ingoldesthorses, with Wimbotisham, and so passed to the Hares.

BARDOLPH MANOR. Hermerus de Ferrer seized on thirteen soc-men (as appears from the book of Doomsday) who held lands, valued at 10s. his predecessor had only the protection of them. This descended to the lords Bardolph, and was held by Blake and Pratt, and came to the Hares, as observed in Wimbotisham, but anciently went with the manor, which the lords Bardolph had in Wimbotisham.

Rainald, son of Ivo, had at the survey the land late of three free-men, who held lands valued at 10d. and were under protection only; also of one free-man, with seven acres, whose protection lately was in the predecessor of William de Warren, valued at 12d. This descended to the earls of Clare, and in the time of Henry III. Edward I. &c. was held of that honor by the family of the Narfords by the 23d part of a fee. This tenure went along with

another small one, held of the aforesaid honor in Bexwell.

Roger Bigot had at the survey a free-man's land, valued at 16d. Also St. Audrey (that is, the church of Ely) had two villains here, who held lands, valued at 12d. All Downham is said then to be three furlongs long, and two broad. Bigot's part seems to have come soon after into the hands of the lords Bardolph, or to be held by them of the heirs of Bigot, and that which belonged to the church of Ely was granted by Henry VIII. Sept. 10, in his 33d year, to the dean and chapter of Ely.

It is an agreeable town, well paved, has a good market on Saturday, supplied with fish and fowl from the neighbouring fens, and a bridge over the Ouse, with a turnpike-road leading to Outwell, Wisbech, &c. Near to this bridge, on the town side, is a market kept for butter every Monday, where in the height of the summer and spring about 3000 firkins are said to be bought up by several factors, and sent hence by water to Cambridge, and from thence to London by land carriage, and called there, *Cambridge butter*. This bridge anciently belonged to the lords Bardolph; and we find that on the 1st of July, in the 32d of Henry VI. John Trentale, in the name and license of John lord viscount Beaumont, (a descendant of the lords Bardolph) leased to Peter Baker, Thomas Spenser, Robert Lyster, and John Chaunter, of Downham, the bridge here, at the rent of 13s. 4d. per ann. they being obliged to keep it in repair at their own charge, and to take the accustomed tolls; but it was provided and excepted, that all the tenants, farmers, residents, &c. of the said lord, belonging to his manor of Stow-Bardolph, should be free from the said toll.

The

The leet was in sir Thomas Hare, bart. fee 2s. 8d. who obtained a charter of two fairs in the year, one on May 8, the other on November 2.

Doctor Batchcroft, master of Caius college, Cambridge, left by will 100l. to this town, to cloath the poor, provide fuel, &c. with which land is purchased, now rented at 8l. per ann.

The church is dedicated to St. Edmund, consisting of a nave, a north and south aisle, built of carr, or ragg stone, and covered with lead; at the west end stands a low four-square tower of the same materials, embattled, and with buttresses, quoins, &c. of free-stone, wherein are five bells; on this is erected a small spire of wood, covered with lead. The vault of the nave is supported by pillars forming ten arches, five on each side, of a different workmanship and turn; the roof is of oak, and at the west end is a neat gallery vineered, &c. and on the old octangular font a shield on each angle, viz. two arrows in saltire, with a crown over them, to set forth the shield of St. Edmund—three escallops, St. James's—a cross, St. George—two swords in saltire, St. Paul—a saltire, St. Andrew—two keys in saltire, St. Peter—a cross with two spears in saltire, with a crown of thorns on the head of the cross, our Saviour's shield; the other is obscure. In this nave hangs, on a piece of iron work, a glass or crystal branch, with eight sockets; the nave is in length about sixty-two feet, and in breadth, with the two aisles, about forty-five. The chancel is camerated and covered with reed, in length about thirty-four feet, and in breadth about sixteen.

Against the north wall is a stone thus inscribed;

RADULPHUS HARE, Baron. hujus tecli materiam,

*ex pio erga Deum, nec minus benevolo erga rectorem aſ-
feclu liberi ſuppeditavit An° Dom. 1702.*

South of the chancel, and adjoining, is a little chapeſ about eighteen feet long, and thirteen broad, co-veſed with lead; on the pavement lies a graveſlone with a braſs plate; what remains is this, - - - - - *Johis Rouse - - - - - p' pit. Deus.*

In the church was anciellty the arms of Ramsey abbey,—or, on a bend azure, three rams heads erazed argent, and those of lord Bardolph.

An altar tomb in the church-yard—*To Maria, wife of William Adkin, anno obt. salut. 1717, aetatis 33.*

Another altar tomb there—*To Thomas Crick, obt. 6°. Id. Martii. æræ autem Xtianæ. anno Milles°. 6 Centes°. 9 nageſſ°. 5°.*

Also—*To Henry Saffery, gent. obiit 7m°. Idus Januarii anno salutis 1721, aetatis 45.*

At the eaſt end of the church-yard is a monument covered with a long ridged ſtone, ihscribed—*To Lu-cretia, daughter of Thomas Peirſon, gent. of Wijſbech, and wife of Robert Southouſe, gent. obiit. July 21, 1663.*

On another altar tomb—*Will. Parlett Armig. inter uxores et partus, ſub ſpe reſurrecſionis, hic jacet ſepultus.*

Buried here.—Sir Nicholas Holmes, Aug. 3, 1558, a chantry priest.—John Batchcroft, gent. March 9, 1580.—Margt. Badycroft, gent. 15.—Bridget, wife of Christopher Batchcroft, gent. 1ſt Sept. 1588.—Christopher Batchcroft, gent. 29th June, 1622.

In

In 1438 John Batcomb was presented rector of Downham: he was one of the clerks of the king's chapel, and the abbot and convent of Ramsey paid him 100s. per ann. at the king's request; on this presentation that pension ceased. *Regist. abb. Ramf.*

Thomas Goryng, a benedictine monk, or friar, was presented by the abbot, &c. of Ramsey, about 1455, as appears from the abbey register.

In 1541 Baldwin Dereham was presented by the king; and in 1554 Thomas Fretwell (Dereham being deposed by queen Mary) presented by Robert Miller, gent. to whom Henry VIII. granted the patronage in his 36th year, pat. 19.

Mr. Robert Miller conveyed the patronage to John Walpole, and William Walpole in the 16th of Elizabeth conveyed it to Francis Gawdy, serjeant at law.

In 1603 here were 200 communicants, as appears by the rector's answer to the king.

In 1640 John Dusgate, of Cockley-Cley, gent. and in 1656 sir Ralph Hare, bart. presented.

In the reign of Edward I. the abbey of Ramsey had the patronage, the rector held thirty acres of land, with an house, valued at eleven marks, Peter-pence 16d. A pension was paid by the rector of 4s. per ann. to the sacrist of that abbey, now a fee farm rent paid lately to Mr. Pile.

The rectory is valued at 6l. 13s. 4d. and is discharged of tenths and first-fruits.

In

In 1428 the temporalities of Carrowe nunnery here were valued at 4s. 5d. per ann.

The temporalities of Ramsey abbey at 3l. 1s. 10d. per ann. with the fishery and their spiritualities at 4s. 5d. with the priory or cell of Modeney.

West Dereham abbey had possessions here granted to Ed. Spanye and John Baspoole, 1st of July, in the 7th of Edward VI.

In this church was the isle of our Lady, and the altar of our Lady.

On the other side of the bridge of Downham, near to the foot of the said bridge, stood an old hermitage, or cell; this was probably founded by a lord Bardolph, the presentation thereto being in that family, as appears from the rolls of the honor of Wormegay, the seat of their barony. In the reign of king John there was an agreement made between the custos of this hermitage and the rector of Downham, in the presence of Robert de Redings, then abbot of Ramsey, the patronage of the church of Downham being in that abbey, &c.

“ Hæc est conventio facta inter fratrem Ailettum, qui tenet heremitorum de Downham et Will. Person. ecclesie de Downham quod ipse Ailetus pro omnibus decimis et obventibus; ejusdem loci annuatim reddet eccles. de Downham xii denar. ad pascha, in festo autem Sci. Andr. capellans. de Downh. missam celebravit in capella Heremitor. in Downh. et medietas oblation. cedet personæ eccles. de Downham, et alia medietas fratris ejusdem loci. Nullus autem confrater perpetuus præter illos tres qui modo ibi sunt, viz. Sigherus, Stammerus et Turstanus, nec aliquis capellan. perpetuus

perpetuus vel annualis recipetur, nisi p. eccles. Ramel. cum assensu personæ eccles. de Downh. Qui capellanus fidelitatem præstabit qd. in nullo diminuet jus paroch. eccles. de Downh. confratres qui ibi fuerint spiritualia percipient ab eccles. Ramel. ad quam si pervenire non poterint, eadem recipient ab eccles. de Downh. et non ab alia. Seculares autem viri si qui ibi fuerint pertinebunt ad eccles. de Downh. tanquam parochiam, si vero abbas illuc ubique de monachis suis mittere voluerit, quamdiu placuerit, ibi remanebit. Ista conventio facta est apud Ramsey, in præsentia Dni. Rob. abbatis, et ejus authentico sigillo roborat. Utiumq; fide præstata hiis testib. Willo. priore, &c." sans date.

In 1733 the Rev. Richard Eaton, A. B. was presented to the rectory of Downham by sir Thomas Hare, bart. of Stow-Bardolph. The heir of that family is now patron.

Downham is twelve miles distant from Lynn, thirty five from Cambridge, thirteen from Wisbech, and fourteen from Swaffham, to each of which towns a turnpike-road leads; and a diligence passes through here to London and Lynn twice or thrice a week.

The situation of this town is remarkably pleasant and healthy, and contains some very neat houses. The church, with a small spire, is handsome, and the plantations now rising beyond it add much to the beauty of the whole. The principal inns here are the Crown, and Queen's-Head.

FINCHAM, wrote in Doomsday-book Phincham. This town at the grand survey was in the tenure of several great Norman lords; the earl Warren had two carucates of land, of which a freeman belonging to

to the soc of Ramsey abbey was deprived, and Hugh held it under that earl ; also the lands of twenty-four free-men, valued at 60s. The said earl had here the tenures of eight free-men, who were expelled, with eleven borderers, &c. valued at 60s. at the survey, before at 40s. William held this of the earl.

William Brant held of the earl in the said town two carucates of land, of which a free-woman was deprived, with two free-men, &c. valued at 30s. with twelve acres, valued at 12d. This whole manor of Fincham was one leuca long, half a leuca broad, whoever was lord, and when the hundred and half paid 20s. gelt, it paid 16d.

The town, says Parkin, seems to take its name from being seated in low meadows, &c. thus, Finchley, in Middlesex, Finchingfield, in Essex, &c.

TALEOT'S HALL. This was a very considerable manor, and took its name from the family of Talbot, who were soon after the conquest enfeoffed of the same by the earl Warren ; to this lordship and family the patronage of the church of St. Michael in this town belonged. William Talbot gave it with the advowson to the priory of Castle-Acre, founded by the earl Warren, and it was confirmed by John, bishop of Norwich, who ordained that the monks should receive a mark of silver yearly. This John, was John of Oxford, bishop in the reign of Hen. II. Jeffrey Talbot, by deed without date, gave to the said priory a croft, called Bekelofvescroft, and seven acres of land, &c. and in the reign of Henry III. when an aid was granted to that king, sir Sampson Talbot, and Adam Talbot, held two knights fees here of the earl Warren ; the said sir Sampson confirmed the grant of the advowson aforesaid, and also gave

to

to the monks of Castle-Acre a toft called Skevening, and four acres of land. Henry III. granted to Robert Bigot the lands of John Talbot in this town, who took part with the rebellious barons.

In the 14th of Edward I. John de Pagrave, chaplain, settled lands as a trustee on Adam Talbot. This Adam had a manor and free tenants, a mesuage, two carucates of land, ten acres of meadow, a windmill, free bull and boar, fifteen customary tenants who held fifty acres in villanage, and seven cottagers held of William de Wauncy, and he of the earl Warren; and in the 35th of Edward II. June 18, the prior and convent of Castle-Acre let to farm (as patrons of St. Michael's church) to Thomas Buxkyn, rector of the said church, with the consent of Thomas, bishop of Norwich, two parts of the demesnes, formerly of Nigell, and William de Spineville, Sampson Talbot, Richard de Mayners, Richard de la Coumbe, and of John de Littlewelle, in Fincham, containing in all 860 acres of land, at the rent of seven marks per ann. Thomas Talbot was lord in the 17th of Henry VI.

In the 36th of Henry VIII. John Spring, esq. conveyed it to Edmund Lumner; and in the 7th of Edward VI. Lumner conveyed it to Thomas Drury; but most of the demesnes were separated from it before this; and soon after it came to the Finchams; and William Fincham conveyed it in the 12th of queen Elizabeth to Charles Cornwallis, esq. who married his sister: Cornwallis, on Nov. 1, in the 28th of that queen, to Thomas Gawfell, esq. &c. On Aug. 30, in the 32d of the said queen, it came to Francis Gawdy, esq. (afterwards a judge) and, by the marriage of his grand-daughter, to the earl of Warwick; and on May 20, in the 18th of James I.

was

was conveyed by him, sir Thomas Cheek, and the Lady Essex his wife, to sir Ralph Hare, of Stow-Bardolph, in whose family it continues, sir George Hare, bart. being late the lord, and the ladies of sir Thomas Harris, and the late Rev. Dr. Thomas Moore, are co-heiresses to this estate.

LITTLEWELL-HALL. William de Littlewell was lord before the reign of Henry III. Sampson de Littlewell, in the said reign, held one messuage, sixty acres of land, two of meadow, with free tenants and villains, free bull and boar, of the earl Warren, by the moiety of a fee. In the 17th of Edward II. John de Littlewell, of Fincham, conveyed it to Hugh de Holewoton, alias Helgeton; and Maud, widow of the said Hugh, gave it to Agnes her daughter, by deed. Gregory Attelathie held it in the 14th of Richard II. and after that Thomas Thoresby; but in the 9th of Henry IV. William Thuxton conveyed it by fine to the lady Alianore Inglethorpe, relict of sir William, who, in the said year, gave it to John Allen, of Fincham. After this Nicholas Geyton was lord, who by his will, dated Nov. 10, 1446, gave it to Thomas, his son, and was buried in the midst of St. Martin's church here; but in 1489 this manor, with two fold-courses, free bull and boar, &c. with a right of fishery, and pools in Littleport, Southrey, Hilgay, Fordham, and Well, passed from the Geytons into the family of Fincham. In the 32d of Henry VIII. John Fincham died lord of it; and in the 12th of queen Elizabeth, William Fincham conveyed it to John Heighum, from whom it came to Thomas Gawfell, Jasper Blake, &c. who in the 32d of that queen sold it to Edmund Guybon and John Mundford, gents. then to judge Gawdy, &c. and in the 17th of James I. sir Thomas Cheek, &c. conveyed it to William Rolph, and so came to sir

sir Ralph Hare, in the co-heiresses of whose family it continues, being united with the other manors here.

COMB'S MANOR. In the beginning of the reign of Henry III. Richard de la Comb was lord; and his son Edmund in the 16th of Edward I. whose daughter and heir, Joan, relict of Simon de Harptegne, possessed it in the 3d of Edward III. She had two sons, Simon and Edmund; Simon assumed the name of Comb, and was lord in the 21st of the said king. In the 6th of Henry IV. the heir of Thomas Comb, of Fincham, held the same of the Dutchy of Lancaster, and was then (being under age) in the king's ward. In the 16th of Henry VI. John Stourton, and others, were pardoned for purchasing without license of the dean of Wells this manor; but in the 27th of that king John Bexwell was lord; and on March 28, in the 20th of queen Elizabeth, Francis Bexwell, esq. sold it to Charles Cornwallis, esq. then it came to Thomas Gawsell, &c. as above, and to sir Ralph Hare, &c. and so it was united to the other lordships.

BENEFIELD'S MANOR. John de Benefield was lord in the reign of Henry III. William, his son, married Agnes, daughter of Richard de Mayners; which Richard had also a lordship here, and gave the tithe of his demesnes to the priory of Castle-Acre. This Agnes being a widow, and Isabel her sister and co-heir, wife of Philip Newland, came to a division of their inheritance about the end of the aforesaid reign. In the time of Edward I. Richard de Benefield held it of the earl Warren, by the fourth part of a fee; he had free bull and boar. In the reign of Edward II. the manor was valued at 9l. 2s. 4d. per ann. &c. About the 6th of Henry IV. it was in the hands of

Joan,

Joan, widow of John de Benefield ; afterwards it came to the Finchams, Gawdys, and so to the Hares, and is united as above.

NEWLAND'S MANOR. In the reign of Henry III. Ralph Newland was lord ; the said Ralph held of the earl Warren a messuage, land, &c. by the fourth part of a fee. Bartholomew Newbant was lord of it in the 20th of Edward III. but about the 6th of Henry IV. John de Fincham was possessed of it, from which family it came, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, to Gawdy, &c. and so to the Hares, and is united to the other lordships.

NEWHALL and NELESHALL MANORS. John Newhall was lord in the 7th of Edward II. In the 17th of Henry VI. John de Benefield and Richard Say conveyed the manor of Neleshall to William Isle, &c. but in the 33d of Henry VIII. John Fincham died possessed of them ; and in the 12th of queen Elizabeth, William Fincham sold it to John Heigham ; from him it came, in the 32d of that reign, to Gawsell, so to Gawdy, &c. and the Hares, and is united to the other lordships, with that of Newhall also.

FINCHAM-HALL was a considerable lordship, held by a family that gave name to it under the earl Warren. Nigellus de Fincham was lord in the reign of William II. and gave the tithe of his demesne to Castle-Acre priory.

Adam de Fincham, lord of this manor, was attorney-general to Henry II. An. 18.

John Fincham aliened lands in the 16th of Richard II. to the prior of Ely. Simon Fincham, his son, married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of John Tendring,

Tendring, esq. of Brocdish, in Norfolk. His last will is dated Nov. 25, 1458; was buried in the church of St. Martin, of Fincham; and Alice, his daughter, married John Batchcroft, esq. of Bexwell.

John Fincham, esq. son of Simon, was steward of the manors of the abbot of Ramsey, and dying Sept. 6, 1496, was buried in St. Martin's church.

John Fincham, son and heir of John, died soon after his father, on April 30, 1499. He seems to have married two wives. In the church of St. Martin, on his grave-stone, were to be seen the arms of Fincham impaling Tey, of Essex; also Fincham impaling another family.

John Fincham, esq. his son and heir, married first, Alice, daughter of Thomas Bedingfield, esq. of Oxburgh, and second, Ela, daughter of Gregory Edgar; he died Oct. 8, in the 32d of Henry VIII.

Thomas Fincham, esq. son of John and Ela, married Martha, daughter of William Yelverton, esq. of Rougham, in Norfolk; he died in 1551, possessed of several manors here; manors, lands, and tenements in Burnham-Depedale, B. Norton, B. Westgate, B. Sutton, B. Ulpe, Brancaster, Hunworth, Holt and Edgefield, in Barton-Bendish, Stoke-Ferry, Wretton, Werham, Boughton, Shouldham, Roxham, and Setche, in Norfolk. Of manors, lands, and tenements in Brantham, Catywade, East Bergholt, Capell, and Sutton, in Suffolk.

William Fincham, esq. his son and heir, succeeded, and died without issue in the 14th of Elizabeth, having conveyed this lordship, as is before observed, to Charles Cornwallis, esq. who married his sister Ann,

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and conveyed it to Thomas Gawsell, whence it came to Gawdy, &c. so to the Hare family; and Sir George Hare, bart. was the late lord.

BURNHAM, OR BRONHAM-HALL. Philip de Burnham held also a lordship here, under the earl Warren; he gave to the monks of Castle-Acre his mill in this town, with the scite thereof, viz. five perches of land: afterwards it came to the Grandcourts.

In the 12th of Edward II. Ralph de Keteleston held a court as lord; but in the 25th of Edward III. John de Fincham was lord, and kept his court, (Keteleston's right being conveyed to him); and in the 29th of the said king, William de Barsale, Robert Eyle, and John Emmeffon, held a court in right of some part of the same, but soon after the whole was in the Fincham family, and came with their other lordships to the Hares.

The next capital and considerable lord at the survey was Hermerus de Ferrariis, who had land, &c. and a right in the fourth part of a church, and 260 sheep; to this belonged a wood half a leuca long, and the manor was a quarter of a leuca broad, and a quarter long, valued at 81. per ann. He had also seized on twenty free-men, who held in the Confessor's time land, &c. valued then at 60s. after at 58s. 4d. also sixteen acres, valued at 10d. per ann.

This afterwards descended (with Wormegay) to the lords Bardolph, and constituted also several lordships, as follows.

FARESWELL MANOR was part of the barony of Wormegay, and seems to be held of it in the 20th of Henry III. by Waleran de Teyes. In the beginning of

of the reign of Edward I. Roger de Predetyn held it under the lord Bardolph by the service of half a fee, and it had free bull and boar. It came afterwards into the family of Trusbut, and Laurence Trusbut, esq. was lord in the reign of Richard II. On the death of William lord viscount Beaumont, who died without issue in 1507, the barony of Wormegay escheating to the crown, Henry VIII. on the 23d of May, in his 6th year, let to farm this manor, with the perquisites of court, to sir John Tilney, kn. and John Fincham, esq. for twenty-one years, paying 8l. per ann. and in the 5th of Edward VI. it was granted to Thomas Horsman, who in the said year had license to alienate it to John Aysborough, to be held of the crown in capite, by knight's service.

In the 4th of Elizabeth sir Richard Sackville had license to alienate it to Thomas and William Guybon, of Lynn; * William Guybon was lord in 1570: he married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Drury, esq. of Fincham; and —— Guybon, esq. of Thursford, in Norfolk, sold it about 1720 to Richard Warner, esq. of Elmham, † in Norfolk, who soon after conveyed it to Dr. Rudd, rector of North Runcion, and by the marriage of his daughter came to Dr. Deck, of Norwich.

CURPLE MANOR was held by Jeffrey and Roger Curple in the reign of Henry III. when an aid was granted to that king, on the marriage of his sister to the emperor, (by the service of half a fee) of the lord Bardolph. In the 12th of Edward II. Roger

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Curple

* Sir Thomas Guybon was son of this William, from whom descend the Guybons, of Thursford.

† Quere---Warner, of Walsingham, lord of the honor of Wormegay.

Curple, conveyed to Maud de Causton messuages, lands, and a mill. This Roger died lord in the 3d of Edward III. his sister and heir married John Talbot, and their daughter and heir, Alice, married Robert de Causton; the said Robert and Alice, in the 16th of that king, settled lands on John de Fincham, and Alice his wife, in this town, daughter of Robert, on her marriage; but in the 41st of the said reign, Nicholas Fastolf held the third part of this manor; and in the 15th of Richard II. John de Weasenham conveyed a third part, with the appurtenances, in Boughton, and Roxham, with the fishery of Redbech, to John de Fincham; and in the following year Bartholomew Elys, of Yarmouth, conveyed his third part to the aforesaid John, so that the whole centered in him; and William Fincham (as is above observed) conveyed it to his brother Cornwallis, and so came to Gawsell, Richard Cheek, &c. to the Hares, in which family it continued, and is united to the other manors.

GRANDCOURT MANOR. Roger Grancurt was possessed of it about the beginning of the reign of Henry III. who held it of William de Calthorpe, and Cecil, his wife, whose inheritance it is said to be, and she of the honor of Wormegay. In the 20th of Edw. III. Thomas de Keteleston was lord; and in the 3d of Henry IV. John de Fincham, in which family it continued till William Fincham, esq. conveyed it to Thomas Heigham, in the 12th of Elizabeth; and in the 22d of that queen it came to Gawsell, who conveyed it to Guybon, and Mundeford, so to Gawdy, Rich, sir Thomas Cheek, and to the Hares.

BROTHERS-HALL. Simon de Brothers-Hall was lord, whose daughter, Gunelda, conveyed it by fine, with lands in this town, to John Talbot, in the

24th of Henry III. John de Caufston held it in the reign of Edward II. and in the 19th of Edward III. gave to John de Brympton a portion of it. On the first of May, in the 12th of Elizabeth, John Carsey, of Revesby, in Lincolnshire, sold it to Hugh Hare, esq. in which family it remained, sir George Hare, bart. being the late lord. We take this to have been held of the honor of Wormegay, though the tenure does not appear from any evidences.

BAINARD-HALL. A third great lord of this town was Ralph lord Bainard, who at the survey, was possessed of the manor that Alid, a free-woman, held in the reign of the Confessor, and was deprived of, consisting of land, &c. valued at 50s. but at the survey at 40s. The church of Ely laid claim to it, as the hundred witnessed. In the said town there were six free-men who had land, &c. which Ralph had a grant of on their expulsion. He had also invaded the lands of six freemen, valued at 20s. but at the survey at 40s. his tenants claimed it by an exchange, but had not livery of it.

This Ralph lord Bainard had from the Conqueror, for his services, a grant of many lordships in Essex, Suffolk, &c. and in Norfolk, amongst which were eleven in this hundred.

This lord, by Juga, his wife, had Geffrey, his son and heir, who lived in 1106; unto him succeeded William Bainard, who taking part with Elias earl of Mayne, in France, against Henry I. lost his barony of Bainard's castle, in London, which was given by that king to Robert, a younger son of Richard Fitz-Gilbert (progenitor of the earls of Clare): from this Robert the noble family of the lords Fitz-Walters descend, who held this lordship in capite.

In the 44th of Henry III. William de Ireland conveyed to Robert de Cantilupe a messuage, with a carucate of land, and 4s. per ann. with other land. After this John de Cantilupe, his son, held it of the lord Fitz-Walter by the service of half a fee, and had free bull and boar.

In the 33d of Edward I. it was settled by Robert lord Fitz-Walter on Adam de Waldingfield, for life. In the 2d of Edward III. it was found to be worth 6l. 13s. 4d. per ann. and in the 27th of the said king John lord Fitz-Walter claimed a right of felons goods here.

In the reign of Henry VI. it came into the Ratcliffe family by the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Walter lord Fitz-Walter, to John Ratcliffe, esq. After this it came to the Finchams, and John Fincham, esq. died seised of it in the 32d of Henry VIII. In this family it continued till William Fincham conveyed it, in the 12th of Elizabeth, to his brother Cornwallis; and so came to Gawfell, Gawdy, Rich, Cheek, and Hare, sir George Hare being the late lord.

Rainald, son of Ivo, held also a manor here at the survey, held by a free-man in king Edward's reign, valued at 2s. per ann. Wihenoc seised on this, and held it under Ivo; and Herluin, a dependant of Ivo, seised on fifteen acres, which a free-man held, valued at 16d. and Mainard seised on one acre and an half, valued at 9d.

This afterwards came to the earls of Clare, and was given partly to Shouldham abbey by Jeffrey Fitz-Piers, the founder. In the 20th of Edward I. the prior of that house held it, and Gilbert de Clare, earl

earl of Clare, gave 10s. per ann. rent here to the convent of Stoke, by Clare, in Suffolk. The prior of Shouldham paid 20d. for his temporalities in 1426.

The church of Ely had at the survey sixteen acres of land, valued at 10s. In the reign of Edward I. John Talbot was found to hold one messuage, land, a wind-mill, free bull and boar, of Simon de Lylde, and Simon of the bishop of Ely, by the service of 10s. per ann. he also held a messuage of the prior of Castle-Acre, and the prior of the earl of Warren, paying 2s. per ann. In the 16th of Richard II. John Fincham, and others, gave lands here, and in Wereham, &c. to the prior of Ely.

The abbot of Bury held land, &c. valued at 2s. 3d. This was held by one socman afterwards, as appears from the register Pinchbeck of that abbey, p. 180.

The leet of this town was in the abbot of Ramsey, and on the dissolution of that house was given to the Hares.—Leet fee 3s.

The temporalities of Dereham abbey, with the priory of St. Winwaloy, were here valued at 15s. in 1428—of the prior of Wormegay 11d.—of the sacrist of Bury 8s.—of the prior of Castle-Acre 12s. 1d.—the abbot of Ramsey for the leet, &c. 20s.—the prioress of Carrowe 5s.—and the temporalities of Shouldham 20d.

FINCHAM St. MARTIN'S CHURCH. This is a large, regular, well-built church of flint, boulder, &c. consisting of a nave, a north and south aisle, and a chancel at the east end of the nave, all covered with lead; at the west end of the nave is a very lofty,

four-square tower of the same materials, with quoins and embattlements of free-stone, neatly worked; on the buttresses, and also on the embattlements may be seen the arms of Fincham, the founders, or benefactors, of this pile. In this tower hang four bells; on the least is this inscription—*Sancta Maria Ora pro Nobis*; and on the tenor—*Viventis Misere Pater Omnipotens Miserere*. This bell was used on the death of any person, and was called the *Soul Peal*, or *Passing Bell*. The nave of this church, from the west door to the screen, is about eighty-three feet in length, and the breadth, including the north and south aisles, is about forty-three feet; the roof is of good oak, supported by principals, on the heads whereof are angels, and monks in their cowls and habits, but with heads like dæmons and furies. The vault of this nave is supported by ten arches, five on each side, with a like number of windows over them. The body of the nave is ornamented with several emblematical designs, chiefly ancient.

On the pavement at the east end of the nave lie several old marble grave-stones, now deprived of their brass ornaments and inscriptions.—On one is the portraiture of a woman in her shroud, with her hands across, but the legend is reaved.—On another is the effigy of a woman in her shroud remaining: by the incision of the stone it appears that here was also the portraiture of a man in his shroud between his two wives; part of the other woman is preserved in the chest. Here were also several shields, and a plate of brass, but they are all reaved. This probably was in memory of John Fincham, who died in the 23d of Henry VIII. and of his two wives. A modern author * asserts, that in the parish church here were divers monuments for several of the family

* *Magna Britan. &c. Norf. p. 138.*

mily of Fincham, but all ancient, viz. the 14th century, whereas what we have already observed is all the monumental remains of this family now in the church, and the brasses have been reaved time immemorial. Weaver, who took things upon trust, or else was negligent in his own survey, accounts only for three inscriptions on the many grave-stones of this church.

On the pulpit—*Gregory Watson, servant to the right worshipful sir Francis Gawdye, knt. made this at his own charge, Anno Dom. 1604.*

In the east window are the arms of Shouldham, Fincham, Fendring, and Trusbut; and in the same window the arms of St. George;—argent, a cross gules.

The chancel is in length about thirty-one feet, and in breadth about nineteen.

On the pavement, near the lowest south window, lies a grave-stone, to which was fixed a brass plate, which is now preserved in the church chest, but is much broken—*Thomæ Townsendi, obiit xii. Januar. Anno Dom. 1570.*

Here was a family of this name in the 13th of Edward II. when Richard Atte-Tunshende, of Fincham, conveyed lands, &c. with the homages and services of divers men, to Adam de Fincham.

On the north side of the chancel is a vestry covered with lead; on the wall a niche for a statue; and here seems to have been a place for an anchorite.

Here

Here were anciently in this church, besides the arms above-observed, these following:—Lovel; Harfick; Birston; lord Hoo; Braunch; lord Bardolph; Fincham impaling quarterly; Elmham. In the south aisle, Fincham impaling Edgar.

Thomas de Grancurt grants by deed without date to Roger de Grancurt, his brother, the advowson of this church; and Roger, son of William de Grancurt, remitted and quit-claimed to his lord, Hugh Bardolph, all his right in the said advowson, on the 11th of May, in the 32d of Edward I.

About 1345 John lord Bardolph granted the prior of Shouldham the advowson of this church; and in the said year there was a patent from the king to appropriate it.

On the 10th of October, 1350, this church was appropriated by the bishop of Norwich to the monastery of Shouldham, and a vicarage was settled; the vicar was to have a convenient dwelling, 10l. per ann. the bishop of Norwich to nominate, and to have a pension of 24s. per ann. and the prior was to present the vicar: the vicar was taxed at seven marks and an half per ann. and the prior and convent for their tenths 29s. 4d. per ann. The spiritualities of the said house for this church were taxed at twenty-two marks.

In 1354, October 10, William bishop of Norwich, appropriated the altarage, the tithes of hay, wool, milk, flax, and hemp, chickens, colts, lambs, pigs, eggs, pigeons, geese, ducks, honey, wax, apples, pears, plants, fruit, wood, mills, turf, mortuaries, and all the glebe belonging to the church, and 100s. per ann. to the vicar. It is highly probable that

that the house of Shouldham, after this appropriation, prevailed by some means or other with the last rector to resign, a practice then very common.

Thomas Freke occurs in 1545, and in or about 1562 archbishop Parker certifies—*Presbyter non conjugatus, satis doctus, refidet, hospitalis, ibidem, non praedicat, nec licentiatus, duò.* He was also rector of St. Michael's, Fincham.

In 1586 the queen presented; on the dissolution of the house of Shouldham the patronage came to the crown.

In 1633 the rector returned that there were 176 communicants here.

The vicarage is taxed in the king's books at 10l. and is discharged of tenths and first fruits, being in real value 38l. per ann.

This rectory of St. Martin's was valued with the portion of Carrowe at twenty-two marks, Peter-pence 16d. and had a manse with thirty acres of land, and a fold of 200 sheep, in the reign of Edward I.

On the dissolution of the monastery of Shouldham this church came to the crown, and queen Elizabeth, by her letters patent, dated the 17th of February, in the 16th of her reign, demised to Thomas Drury this rectory, with the appurtenances, and all the houses, &c. except the advowson of the vicarage (which remains in the crown) for twenty-one years, paying 8l. per ann. which letters patent being surrendered and cancelled, the queen, for 16l. fine, demiseth to William Gybon, gent. and Ann and Frances,

ces, his daughters, the said rectory for their lives successively, paying 8l. per ann. and the best beast for an heriot ; dated the 22d of June, in the 27th of Elizabeth.

Simon Fincham by his will, dated Nov. 23. 1458, desires to be buried in this church, and bequeaths to the bell tower fabrick 7l. 6s. 8d. by which it appears the tower was built at that time.

FINCHAM St. MICHAEL. This church is built of flint and boulder, and consists only of a nave, or body, with a chancel covered with lead. At the west end of the nave stands a large square tower, embattled with quoins and copings of free-stone, and a pinnacle at each corner, and herein hang three bells. The length of the nave, from the west door to the chancel, is about sixty feet, and in breadth about twenty-seven. The roof is supported by oaken principals, on the head of which have been the effigies of religious persons in their habits, but their heads are broken off.

In the upper window of this nave, on the south side, were the arms of Bokenham, of Norfolk, Bardolph, and Poinings.

The chancel is in length about thirty-three feet, and in breadth about eighteen; the upper part of the wall on the north side is of brick embattled, and coped with free-stone; also a little free-stone porch, or passage, into the chancel; in the centre of the arch there seems to be cinquefoils cut, the arms of the lords Bardolph.

On the communion table—*William Hubbard died 1623, and gave this table.*

In

In the east window are the arms of Dereham abbey.

Against the north wall is a little decent copartment of stone, and in the centre a black marble—*To Daniel Baker, A. M. 40 years rector, obijt Feb. 19, 1722, ætat. 69.*

Against the said wall, east from this, is an enarched monument of stone; in this arch is a raised tomb about two feet from the ground; on each side of this arch, on the summit, is a niche carved for some statue, there is no inscription or arms about it, and probably it was the *Sepulchrum Domini*, or the sepulchre of our Lord. Opposite to this, on the south side of the chancel, are three stone seats, or stalls, raised within the wall, having three arches, one over each seat, which seats are about two feet in depth, and above three in height; on the summit of each arch rises a pyramid of stone, carved, and pointing to the cornish, which juts out from the wall about three inches. Such seats and stalls are still to be seen in many old churches, and were for the bishop, priest, and deacon, or the rector, curate, or chantry priests. The stalls here differ from others in this; that of the bishop, or rector, is about two inches higher than that of the priest, and the stall of the priest is the same in respect of the deacon. Over the stall of the bishop are these two shields;—quarterly, England and France; and quarterly, Spencer's arms, bishop of Norwich, in the reign of Edward III. and Richard II. when we conceive this church was built. Over the arch of the second stall, earl Warren and Surrey; Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel; lord Barolph. Over the arch of the lowest seat, lord Fitz-Walter, and lord Scales. These arms were all washed

over

over with whiting, but no doubt were formerly painted in their proper colours.

The lords above-mentioned held lands in capite in this town, as has been shewn, except the lord Scales, and he had a lordship in the adjoining town of Barton, which extended here.

Besides the arms above observed, here were anciently in the windows the arms of Birston, Trusbut, Fincham, and Bardolph; Tendring and Braunch; Wauncy and Talbot; Cockfield and Felbrigg.

Simon bishop of Norwich confirmed to the prior of Castle-Acre two parts of the tithes of the demesnes of Nigell, and William de Spinevill, Sampson Talbot, &c. in 1261; these demesnes contained 860 acres of land, and more; two parts of these tithes the prior lett to the rector, and his successor, for seven marks per ann. in the year 1361.

In the 33d of Henry III. a fine was levied between the prior of Castle-Acre, Peter and Adam Talbot, tenant of the advowson of this church, granted to the prior. By this it seems that the advowson of this church belonged to the earl Warren's fee, and was held by the Talbots; but before this it appears, from the register of Castle-Acre, that the bishop of Norwich confirmed it to that priory of the gift of William Talbot, patron, and that the monks should receive a mark of silver per ann. of the parson of the said church; and Sampson Talbot confirmed the donation of his uncle William. It was valued at fifteen marks, Peter-pence 14d.

In the 3d of Edward I. the jury for the hundred find that the prior of Shouldham held nine acres here

here, of the gift of Philip Newland, and Richard de Ennebys, in the reign of Henry III. and the abbot of Dereham twelve acres, of the gift of Sampson de Littlewell, held of the earl Warren.

In 1502 this church was valued at sixteen marks.

Christopher Wynde, rector, by his will, dated April 21, and proved July 28, 1525, desires to be buried in the chancel of this church, and bequeaths money to the making the roof of the said chancel.

The advowson of this church coming to the crown on the dissolution of Shouldham abbey, was given by Henry VIII. to the duke of Norfolk, on the 22d of December, in the 29th year of his reign, a fine of the advowson of the said church being levied between the said king, and the prior of St. Mary's, Castle-Acre, in the 29th of that king's reign.

In 1587 Roger Gunson, presented by Robert Gunson, and John Edgeley, patrons, *hac vice*; and in 1588, October 15, he was reinstated on the presentation of Francis Gawdy, esq. In 1603 he certified the king that there were seventy-seven communicants in this parish: and in 1617 the rector was presented by lord Rich.

In 1682 sir Thomas Hare, bart. presented; and in 1744 the Rev. William Harvey was presented to the rectory of Fincham St. Michael, consolidated with the vicarage of St. Martin, by Martha Forby, widow.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 7l. 6s. 8d. but being in clear value 45l. per ann. is discharged of tenths and first-fruits.

The

The portion of the prior of Castle-Acre out of this church was five marks per ann.

John Talbot, senior, of Fincham, by deed acknowledged to have had of the prior of Castle-Acre, &c. a wind-mill here, held at 4d. per ann.

This church was a few years since pulled down, and the two parishes consolidated.

This town gives name to a deanry, called from it the deanry of Fincham, which included the whole hundred and half of Clackclose.

The deanry of Fincham is in the archdeanry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich. The deans were always collated by the bishop of that see. The last dean occurs in 1518.

All the capital manors of this town are still in the Hare family, but the estate and lands are in divers hands; the late Rev. Dr. Moore had a considerable estate in this town, his own private property; and Robert Dack, M. B. of the city of Norwich, has Fareswell manor, and a large estate in the town, by his marriage with Miss Rudd, only child of the late Dr. Rudd.

This town was inclosed by Act of Parliament about seven years since, being one of the first of the inclosed towns in this hundred, and was very大大ly improved thereby, the rents of the different owners being nearly doubled, the small cottagers received a great addition of land to the several cottages, and a handsome portion of land reserved, and rated and regulated for the benefit of the cottager, without any right to the farmers, or other occupiers to turn thereon;

on; and the growth of turnips, and clover, (which were never cultivated in its uninclosed state) have so much increased, that the labouring hands, who were before obliged to resort to neighbouring villages for employ at those seasons, are now fully employed, and with their uniform regular earnings, enabled to live with comfort and sufficiency.

The village of Fincham is situated on the turnpike-road leading from Swaffham, seven miles and a half, to Downham five miles and a half, and is now a place of some traffic.

The rectory, and patronage, are now in the Rev. Mr. Joseph Forby, who presents twice, and the crown once.

FODDERSTON, or **FOSTON**. There are now only two or three cottages, or houses, standing of this village, on the London road to Lynn, called Foston-Gap. In Doomsday-book it is wrote Foddeston, and Fodesthorp. The chief lordship was in the church of Ely.

At the survey there belonged to it a carucate of land, &c. valued at 20s. It was four furlongs long, three broad, and paid 4d. gelt. Ulcherel, the vassal of Hermetus de Ferraris, lord of Wormegay, a town adjoining, claimed it as free to be seized on, not being church lands, and was ready to prove it by battle, ordeal, or any other legal manner; and there was another ready to prove, in the same manner, that it belonged to the church on the day that king Edward died; the whole hundred also witnessed, that it belonged to the church of Ely in king Edward's time.

From this outrageous claim, we may perceive with what violence and oppression the Conqueror and his adherents behaved on the conquest, being not contented with the lands of the laity, that they seized on, but made such notorious claims on the lands of the religious, that they were by no means secure in their possessions.

However, the church maintained her right. In the 9th of Edward II. the prior of Ely was lord, and so continued till the dissolution, and was granted afterwards to the dean and chapter of Ely, where it continues, and was held by them of the late sir George Hare, bart.

Rainald, son of Ivo, had half a carucate of land, &c. here, valued at 10s. and Ralph held it of him, and Wihenoc had invaded it. This came afterwards to the earls of Clare; Jeffrey Fitz-Piers, earl of Essex, held it of them, and on his founding the priory of Shouldham, gave it to that house, in the reign of king John, and the prior had a charter for free-warren here, in the 33d of Henry III. At the dissolution it came to the crown, and Edward VI. gave it with lands in Tottenhill, &c. on May 6, An. 7° to Thomas Mildmay, esq. and sir Thomas Mildmay, in the 25th of Elizabeth, sold it to Francis Gawdy, serjeant at law, and so came to the earl of Warwick, who conveyed it to William Butts, esq. in the 19th of James I. and Leonard Butts sold it to sir John Hare, knt. of Stow-Bardolph, in which family it remains.

Hermerus de Ferrariis, lord of Wormegay, had seized on the lands which six free-men held under protection only of his predecessor; and because they were in want of pasture, they paid rent to him for it; it was valued at 5s.

In

In the reign of Henry III. Alexander le Moyne, or Monk, and his parcerers, held the fourth part of a fee of the lord Bardolph, as of the honor of Wormegay; he was son of sir Peter le Moyne, and gave rents to the sisters of Mary Magdalen, in Norwich.

In the 3d of Edward III. Benedict Russell, &c. held lands; in the 20th John Russell had the fourth part of a fee here, and in Shouldham-Thorpe, called Russell Moyns; afterwards the Beaumonts, being capital lords, and forfeited to the crown, Henry VIII. on Sept. 10, An. 33, granted it to the dean and chapter of Ely, and is now vested in them, and held lately by sir George Hare, bart.

In the 16th of Richard II. John Fincham, &c. aliened to Ely priory a messuage, land, &c. with liberty of a fold here, and in Garboysthorpe. The temporalities of that priory were valued in 1428 at 33s. 4d. The temporalities of Shouldham priory at 50s. and an halspenny. Of Wormegay at 5s. 10d.

Here was formerly a church, but now no remains of it; it was a rectory dedicated to St. Peter, valued at eight marks, and in the patronage of Ely priory. The scite is scarcely to be discerned; it is close on the west side of the turnpike-road, and near to the ninety-fifth mile-stone from London.

In 1449 the church was appropriated to Ely priory by the bishop of Norwich, on account of the poverty of its revenue, and the prior was to find a curate, and to pay the bishop a pension of 3s. 4d. per ann. The dean and chapter have the impropriation, and is leased to the heirs of the Hare family.

FORDHAM. This village lies east of the great Ouse, and north of the river Wifsey; here is a causeway over a fenny ground to Hilgay, often overflowed, but fordable, from whence 'tis probable it takes its name.

Several lords at the survey were concerned in this town; Hermerus de Ferrariis feized on the lands of three free-men, valued at 2s. This, with other lands belonging to Riston, Bexwell, Dereham, &c. which Hermerus held, (and after him the lords Bardolph) made up the manors of Riston, and of Helgton, or Hembleton-Hall, in this town.

In the reign of Henry III. the family of Stradset held a lordship of lord Bardolph, of the honor of Wormegay.

In the 9th of Edward III. Gilbert de Hethill, parson of the church of Tottenhall, in this hundred, gave to the prior of the Holy-Cross of Wormegay land, &c. in Fordham-Hithe; and Riston held of Stradset, paying 5s. per ann. and in the 16th of Richard II. John Davy, and others, aliened lands and tenements here, &c. to the said priory.

John Cavendish, and George Neffield, as heirs to the Stradsets, held the same in the reign of Henry VI. of lord Bardolph. The part thus given to the prior of Wormegay was called Hembleton-Hall, alias Uphall.

The priory of Wormegay being dissolved, and annexed with all its appurtenances to that of Pentney, came, on the general dissolution to the crown; and queen Elizabeth granted the manor here, with the advowson of a moiety of the church, to William Barber,

ber, and John Jenkins, August 3, in her 7th year; afterwards it came to the Skipwiths, who possessed it in the 40th of the said queen.

Jeffrey Curpell held also, in the reign of Henry III. a manor here, in Roxham, West Dereham, &c. of the lord Bardolph, which Roger Curpell gave, in the reign of Edward III. to the priory of Wormegay; this also was granted, together with the above-mentioned, at the said time, to Barber Jenkins, and so came to the Skipwiths.

The church of St. Etheldreda, of Ely, had, in king Edward's reign, three borderers, who held at the survey twelve acres, valued at 2s. and the abbot of Ely had seized on thirty acres, which a free-man held, valued at 4s. Of this his predecessor had the protection only.

This went along with the abbot's manor of Bexwell, and held in the reign of Edward I. by Stephen Bexwell. In the 14th of the said king John de Deen held lands of the bishop of Ely, as did Stephen de Dunneby; and John de Deen in the said year, conveyed a moiety of the church of Fordham, belonging to him, to Robert de Benhale, and Robert to Hervey de Stanton, and so came to John de D'Isle; afterwards it was in the Skipwiths.

William earl Warren had 111 acres, which two free-men were deprived of. This belonged to his manor of Denyer, that extended here.

Rainold, son of Ivo, had seized on the property of three free-men; the abbot of Ramsey had the soc; also on one free-man, of whom the abbot of Bury had the protection, in king Edward's time, valued

at 5s. This came after to the earls of Clare, and Gloucester, and was held by Jeffrey Fitz-Piers, earl of Essex, in the time of king John, who gave it to his priory of Shouldham. On its dissolution it came to the Skipwiths, and the priory's temporalities here, in 1428, were valued at 10s.

The abbot of Ramsey had, in the time of the Confessor, and at the survey, twenty-four acres, valued at 2s. 8d. also the lands of a free-man, valued at 3s. This, with the manor of Snore, was held of the abbey. Ralph lord Bainard had lands which three free-men, and a borderer, held; this was afterwards held of the lords Fitz-Walter, and was part of the manor of Fincham, &c. and valued there,

Thomas Gawsell, esq. of Watlington, by his will, dated Sept. 14, 1500, gives to his younger son, Richard, a manor here; and Ellen Gawsell, of Watlington, by her will, dated on St. Clement's day, 1504, gives to John, her son, the manor of Woodleyes, in Fordham, which came also to the Skipwiths.

SNORE-HALL. Snore was a village in the Confessor's time, nothing of it remains but part of an old hall, now a farm-house, lying east of Fordham. The abbot of Ramsey had in the Confessor's time, and at the survey, half a carucate of land, valued at 10s. Ralph de Snore was lord in the reign of Henry III.

After this it was held by William Adamson, Thomas Brown, and Robert Atmore, by William Cobb, Nicholas Spalding, and Thomas Belyetter, and then came to the Skipwiths, who built a good hall; part of it is still standing.

In

In the 8th of Edward IV. the treasurer of the abbot of Wormegay received of William Skipwith, gent. on Feb. 23, 26s. 8d. an annual rent out of this manor, and lands at Snore, in Fordham.

In 1651 sir Ralph Skipwith was lord of Snore, and of Fordham. In 1616 Edmund Skipwith, gent. paid an annual rent out of this manor to the lord of Swaffham manor, in Norfolk. After this sir Thomas Vyner, lord mayor of London, held it; from whom it came to the Smalls, of Gloucestershire, and Vyner Small, esq. was lord of this, and of Fordham. William Wollaaston, esq. of Finborough, in Suffolk, and representative for the borough of Ipswich, in parliament, is the present lord, and has a sporting seat in the village.

Temporalities of Broomholm priory 5s. Castle-Acre 9s. Wormegay 5s. Coxford 10s. Shouldham 10s. West Dereham 5s. Westacre 2s. gd. Norwich 12s.

The old church was a small pile, and falling down in 1730, was rebuilt. There were two medietyes anciently belonging to it, one was appropriated to Wormegay priory, the other to that of Norwich, and the church was dedicated to St. Mary. Wormegay mediety was called the portion of John, who was rector in 1278. In 1306 the rector was presented by the prior of Wormegay. It was appropriated in Feb. 1346, by bishop Bateman, paying 20s. per ann. to the fee of Norwich; this priory being annexed to that of Pentney, at the dissolution, was granted August 3, An. 7 Elizabeth, to William Barber, and John Jenkins, and came after to the Skipwiths, &c. and to Vyner Small, esq. the late impropriator. Norwich mediety was called the portion of Goscelin,

valued at four marks. On April 3, An. 10 Edward III. license was granted to John de Lisle to give it, (which he purchased of sir Hervey de Stanton) with a messuage, 6s. rent, &c. to Norwich priory, to find a chaplain to pray for the souls of himself, and friends, and it was appropriated June 6, 1351, and is now held of the dean and chapter of Norwich.

In 1603 it was certified that there were forty-one communicants.

In 1753 the Rev. Richard Eaton was presented to this curacy.

This town lies on the turnpike-road from Downham, and Lynn, to Ely, Cambridge, and London.

HILGAY, HILGEY, or HELGAY, is a village on a hill, surrounded with water and fens, on the south side of the river Wiss, near its fall into the river Ouse; at the survey it was a lordship of the abbey of Ramsey, by the gift of king Edgar, valued at 80s. in king Edward's time, but after at 70s. William earl Warren had deprived the abbot of eight men of this manor, with their customary dues, and forty-three acres of land, as the hundred certified. This manor was five furlongs long, and four and an half broad, and paid 8d. of a 20s. gelt.

The abbot of Ramsey had also in this hundred of Clackclose lordships in Wimbotisham, Snore, Dereham, Fordham, and Outwell; in the hundred of Freebridge, Walsoken; in Smithdon hundred, Banchaster, and Ringstead; and in Brothercross hundred, Burnham.

Wood-

WOOD-HALL MANOR. The abbot of Ramsey had a charter for free-warren here, in the 35th of Henry III. and in the 16th of Henry VI. the issues and profits of this manor amounted to 124l. 16s. as stated by John Bexwell, esq. steward to the manor.

On the dissolution this lordship, with the advowson of the rectory, was granted, Nov. 27, in the 38th of Henry VIII. to James Hawe, esq. to be held of the king by knight's service. Henry Hawe, esq. his son, built here a large manor-house of brick, and dying in 1592, left by Ursula, his wife, daughter of Robert Holdish, esq. of Diddington, a daughter and heir, Frances, who brought it by marriage to sir John Willoughby, knt. of Risle, in Derbyshire.

Sir John left by the said Frances, sir Henry Willoughby, created baronet in 1611. His daughter, Elizabeth, married sir John Wray, bart. whose daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married the honourable Nicholas Saunderson, esq. eldest son of sir George Saunderson, bart. lord viscount Castleton of Ireland, and had Wray Saunderson, esq. who dying without issue at York, April 7. 1714, gave this lordship to sir Cecil Wray, bart. second son of sir Drury Wray, bart. and Ann, his wife, daughter and heir of Thomas Casey, of Rathcannon, in the county of Limerick, in Ireland, esq. who succeeded his brother, sir Christopher, in 1710. Sir Cecil was bred to arms, was a captain in general Farrington's regiment, and served in Flanders, Spain, and Portugal, and married Mary, daughter of Edward Harrison, of Morely, in the county of Antrim, in Ireland, esq. by Johanna, his wife, daughter of the Right Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Taylor, bishop of Down and Conner; and was succeeded in honor, and this lordship, &c. in May 1736, by his cousin, sir John Wray, bart. eldest son of

William,

William, only son of Cecil, fourth son of sir Christopher Wray, whose son by Frances, daughter of Nicholas Norcliffe, of Langton, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, esq. Sir Cecil Wray, bart. of Summer-castle, in Lincolnshire, and member in Parliament for the borough of Retford, in Notts, was late lord, and captain Manby, of Denver, is the present lord.

MASSINGHAM, or CURTEYS MANOR. In the 22d year of Henry VI William Massingham, esq. of this town, was lord of this manor, held of the abbot of Ramsey, all which formerly belonged to Thomas Lovel, esq. after that to Nicholas Massingham, esq.

On December 16, 1468, John Astley, esq. of Melton-Constable, in the hundred of Holt, had a grant from the abbot of Ramsey of the custody and marriage of Thomas Massingham, esq. This Thomas died possessed of it in 1492.

Stigand, archbishop of Canterbury, also held in his own right, as a lay fee, thirty acres, and one carucate, which a free-man under his protection enjoyed in king Edward's reign. At the conquest the conqueror seized on it, and was held for him by William de Noyers, and after granted to William earl Warren, who had twenty-acres also, which belonged to eight free-men; in king Edward's time, valued at 7s. 6d. and belonged to the monastery of Ramsey.

This belonged to the great lordship of Methwold, and extended here, and was possessed, under the earls Warren and Surrey, by the families of Cailli, and Clifton. Roger de Cailli gave to the prior of Castle-Acre all his rents of eels here, viz. one thousand and an half per ann. and Alice, his mother, by her deed without

without date, gave a fishery, called Poltsere, to find the house one thousand eels per ann. Ralph de Balliol, by his deed without date, gave also for the soul of his lord, the earl Warren, a rent of two thousand eels.

The temporalities of Castle-Acre were in 1428 valued at 20s.

These tenures made part of the Duchy of Lancaster, in this town.

The abbot of St. Edmund's Bury had fifty-eight acres of land held by three villains, with one carucate, and four acres of meadow, which were valued with his manor of Southrey, that extended here, and the temporalities of the cellarar of that abbey, in this town, were valued in 1428 at 40s. per ann.

Here were also at that time several other small tenures. Hermerus de Ferrariis, lord of Wormegay, had seized on six acres of land; of this the abbot of Bury had only the protection, valued at 8d. also on two acres held by two free-men, &c. Roger Bigot had one acre and an half held by a free-man before the conquest, valued at 3d, and the church of Ely had four borderers, who held two acres, valued at 6d.

The temporalities of the priory of Wymondham were valued at 40s. per ann.

The prior, by deed without date, demised to Leoline Rok all his fishery in the parts of Hilgay.

The abbot of West Dereham had a cottage, and part of a fishery, granted by William de Githnei, in fee-

fee-farm for a mark of silver; and he confirmed the gift of Jeffrey Fitz-Jeffrey of the other part, in the reign of Henry III. This was given at the dissolution, Sept. 13, in the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, to Thomas Guybon, and William Mynn.

In the 12th of Henry III. Stephen de Tyesford gave lands here to the prioress and convent of Blackburgh.

The leet of this town was in the abbot of Ramsey, and late in sir George Hare, bart. fee 2s.

MODENEY PRIORY. In this parish, one mile and a half from the church south-west, near the river Ouse, was the priory of Modeney, called now Modney-Hall, and was a cell to Ramsey abbey. On the dissolution it was granted, with its appurtenances, April 18, in the 35th of Henry VIII. to Robert Hogan, esq. on his paying 39s. per ann. to the crown; soon after, in the said year, Feb. 4, he had license to alienate it to James Hawe, esq. from the Hawes it came to the Willoughbys, and by Catherine, a daughter of sir Henry Willoughby, to the Purefoys, and to the Greys, and the Astons, and is now in sir Robert Burdet, bart. of Foremark, in Derbyshire.

The church of Hilgay is dedicated to All Saints, consisting of two ailes, covered with lead, and a tower at the west end, built of ragg-stone, &c. in which are five bells. The present value is 10l. and pays first-fruits, &c.

Against the wall of the south aisle, near the east end, is a mural monument, with the small effigies of a man, his wife, and a child, all on their knees. with

with a desk before them, inscribed—*To Henry Hawe, esq. who died Sept. 31, 1592; and Ursula, his wife, Dec. 8, 1594.*

On the pavement adjoining lies a marble grave-stone, with a plate of brass, and thereon verses in Latin.

On the aforesaid monument are the arms of Hawe, and of Hilditch.

On the pavement of the north aisle lies a grave-stone—*In memory of Nicholas Spencer, S. T. B. Fellow of Trinity college, Cambridge, and rector of this parish, who died June 15, 1705, aet. stat. 63.*

The roof of the south aisle has been curiously painted, and thereon have been many arms of benefactors, owners of land here, &c. viz. of Spencer, bishop of Norwich; Thomas of Brotherton, earl of Norfolk; Ramsey abbey; Norwich priory; earl Warren; lords Mowbray, Howard, Bardolph, Scales; Camois, Ingalesthorp, Thorp, Tilney, lord Bouchier, Tatisfall, Clifton, Ufford, and Beke quarterly, Clifton, Stafford, Ferrers, Dagworth, Erpingham, Bardwell, Rainham, Strange, Ross, Natburgh, Foliot, Gonville, Calthorpe, Lovel, Wingfield, Gawton, Berney, Wilton, Rochford, Argenton, Inglos, Bois, le Gros, Harlike, Elmham, &c.

In the north aisle, in a window, was the portraiture of a knight in armour, kneeling, with the arms of Kerdeston, and that of his lady, with an orate for them.

Sir Thomas Kerdeston died seised, in the 29th of Henry VI. of a messuage, and fourteen acres of land here.

In 1425 it appears that the sacrist of Ramsey had a pension of 20s. per ann. out of this rectory ; and in 1521 the church was valued at twelve marks.

In 1573 Henry Hawe, esq. presented.

Before the dissolution of religious houses the patronage of this church was in the prior and convent of Ramsey.

In 1609 the rector certified that there were two hundred communicants here.

In 1740 the Rev. John Deering, prebend of Ripon, was presented to this rectory by Sir John Wray, bart. and in 1774 Mr. William Nelson presented the Rev. William Nelson.

The village of Hilgay stands on an eminence, surrounded by the great level of fen, called Bedford Level. The turnpike-road from Lynn to Cambridge runs through the town.

MARHAM, alias CHERRY-MARHAM, so called from a large marsh, or moor, lying near to it, which being often over-flowed, appears as a meer. The principal manor of this village was in the church of Ely, by the grant of King Edgar ; and in the time of Leoffin, the fifth abbot of that church, the produce of it was set apart as a farm, and appointed for the entertainment of strangers who came to the said abbey, and to bring in provisions necessary for that purpose. The Norman lords made encroachments on it at the conquest. At the grand survey it seems to have been the capital lordship of that church, in the hundred and half of Clackclose, and had ten leets therein ; and St. Etheldreda, or St. Audrey, the foundress of that church, is in the said survey said to have

have had four carucates in demesne in the reign of the Confessor, and then but three. In the aforesaid reign there were six carucates among the tenants, &c, the land was one leuca long, and one hundred perches and half a leuca and one quarter broad, but the measure in the marsh was not known; it was valued at 10l. per ann.

To this lordship there belonged, in king Edward's time, twenty-seven socmen, with all their customary dues; but after William the Conqueror came, Hugh de Montfort had all of them except one, whom William de Warren had, which socman held six acres of the church of Ely. This whole land paid 14d. gelt when the hundred and half paid 20s. and it was the same at the survey.

The ABBEY MANOR. This lordship was held by the earls Warren of the church of Ely. In the 1st, year of king John there was a suit between the bishop of Ely and Hamlen Plantagenet, earl Warren, when they came to this agreement, that the earl acknowledged it to belong to the see of Ely, and the bishop granted the earl and his heirs to hold it of that see, by the service of one knight's fee, and the earl paying 100s. rent per ann. in lands, in pure alms, for ever to the church of Ely.

William, the sixth of that name, earl Warren and Surrey, on the marriage of his second daughter, Isabel, gave it with her in marriage to Hugh de Albini, earl of Arundel and Sussex, who dying without issue, in 1243, she, in 1249, on her founding a nunnery in this town, settled it on that house; about this time the rent of assise of the free tenants, &c. is said to have been 14l. 5s. 3d. ob. per ann.

In

In the 3d of Edward I. the abbess had the leet, assise of bread and beer, all forfeitures, a gallows, and other royal privileges, which she claimed as liberties belonging to the see of Ely.

In or about the 29th of Edward III. a rental specifies, that the abbess had five hundred acres and three roods of arable land here in demesne, and forty-eight acres and a half of pasture, or meadow, here, and in Shouldham; several turbaries, a water-mill, a fulling-mill, and a right in the river from Holmes, in the moor of Narburgh, to the pool of the said mill.

On the dissolution of this convent it came to the crown; and Henry VIII. conveyed it on July 3, in his 38th year, with the scite of the abbey, to sir Nicholas Hare, knt. and John Hare, citizen and mercer, of London, on the payment of a fee-farm rent of 3l. 6s. 2d. ob. per ann. to the crown, which on July 9, in the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, was also granted to the said sir Nicholas, together with lands and tenements in Wymondham, Besthorpe, Carlton, Kentford, Needham, Gafely, Herrinwell, &c. in the tenure of Thomas Buckworth, belonging to the late nunnery of Marham, with the appropriated rectory of Didlington, the advowson of Saxmundham church, messuages and lands in Brigham, Roudham, Witchingham Magna, Bodney, Thetford, Bedingham, Okeholt, &c. and in the heirs of this family it remains, sir George Hare, bart. being the late lord.

The Abbey Manor, with Belet's, and Denham's, are now centered in one manor, called New-Hall manor.

OLD

OLD-HALL. This consisted of that part of the possessions of the see of Ely which were alienated by Wilfrick, the 6th abbot of Ely, to his brother, before Doomsday-book was made; and at the Conquest Hugh de Montfort was lord of it by an exchange; twenty-six socmen held it of the church of Ely in the time of the Confessor, when their possessions were valued at 80s. at the survey at 40s. This was measured and accounted for in the lordship of St. Etheldreda of Ely; and Walter held it under Hugh.

The socmen abovementioned were by their tenures obliged to plow their lands of the abbot of Ely, to weed, bind, &c. their corn, and to bring provisions (when required) there, &c. all which services, &c. Hugh had, as their lord. He was son of Thurstan Bastenbergh, a Norman, and was commonly called Hugh with a Beard (the Normans at that time being usually shaved) and accompanying William duke of Normandy into England, assisted him as a valiant and expert commander in the decisive battle of Hastings, afterwards was appointed to be an assistant in the administration of justice throughout the realm to William Fitz-Osborn, and Odo, bishop of Baieux. For his great services he obtained a grant of many lordships in Kent, Essex, Suffolk, &c. and of nineteen in this county. This lord was killed in a duel with Walkeline de Ferrers, and left Hugh, his son and heir, who had two sons, Robert and Hugh, by his first wife, and by his second wife a daughter. Robert was general of the army of William II. in the 12th year of his reign, but favouring the title of Robert Curthose, the Conqueror's eldest son, against Henry I. retired with his brother Hugh to Jerusalem, leaving his inheritance, &c. where they both died without issue, in their pilgrimage, so that their sister inherited it, who married Gilbert de Gaunt, by

whom she had a son, Hugh, who assumed, from his mother, the surname of Montfort.

Walter, who was enfeoffed of this lordship, and held it under Hugh at the survey, seems to be the ancestor of the family of de Marham.

Sir Walter de Marham was lord in the reign of Henry III. and held it by one fee of the honor of Hagenet, or Haughley, in Suffolk; his daughter and heir, Margaret, brought it by marriage to sir William Belet, alias Bygot; in the 34th of that king he possessed it; and in the 44th, being the king's valet, had a grant of free-warren, a weekly market, and a fair.

In the 3d of Edward I. William Belet claimed the leet of his tenants, assize of bread, &c. a gallows, &c. as privileges belonging to the fee of Ely, and performed suit to the king's court at Haughley, from month to month, paying 10s. per ann. to Dover castle.

Sir William Belet was lord, and claimed the patronage of the two churches in this town, the great tithes of which were appropriated to Westacre abbey, by the grant of Geffrey de Marham; and there belonged to this manor free bull and boar. The freehold and copyhold tenants are mentioned with their services.

Sir William Belet, or Bygot, dying without issue, in the 14th of Henry IV. it came to his three sisters and co-heirs, Catherine, married to Robert Hunt; Margaret, to William Galyon; and Elizabeth, to Richard Fox; but Isabel, their mother, who was married to John Dorwood, esq. held it for life. They had also their parts, and shares, in the manor of Tofts

Tofts, in Norfolk ; Bacon's, and Alfreston-Hall, in Dunmow Magna ; and the advowson of the chapel, or prebend, in the church of Dansey, in Essex ; but all came after to Hunt, whose daughter and heir, Isabel, was married to Thomas Dayrell, or Darrel, who died lord of the manor of Old-Hall, in the 5th of Henry VII. as did Thomas, his son, in the 21st of the said king, leaving two sisters and co-heirs, Beatrice, and Anastasia ; this last brought it by marriage to Thomas Jermyn, esq. who was lord in 1517, and conveyed it in that year, by fine, to John Spelman, esq. with about three hundred acres of land, pasture, and moor, 40s. per ann. rent in Marham, and Shouldham, which continued in that family till within a few years last past, when it was conveyed to the right hon. earl Clermont, and has since passed to John Beevor, M. D. of the city of Norwich, the present lord of the manor of Old-Hall.

BELET'S and DENHAM'S MANOR. Hermerus de Ferrariis held at the survey twenty acres of land, which was Turchetel's in king Edward's reign, and belonged to the soc, or lordship, of St. Etheldreda aforesaid, and two villains who had then three oxgangs of land, and an acre of meadow, valued always at 3s. 4d. and this land was measured with the lordship of St. Etheldreda.

William earl Warren had also half a carucate of land, which St. Etheldreda held in king Edward's time, valued then at 20s. but after, and at the survey, at 26s. 8d. and Ralph held it under this earl.

Of these fees we shall treat together.—The family of de Bexwell had an interest herein, in the 35th of Henry III. when William de Bexwell settled lands

by fine on John de Tuddenham, who seems to have held both the fees abovementioned.

William de Bexwell by his deed, dated at Cambridge, in 1266, grants this lordship, which he held here of sir Roger de Wimple, to sir William Belet, to be held of him by the payment of a pair white gloves on Easter-day, or a penny, if asked of him.

In the 3d of Edward I. sir William Belet, as lord, claimed to have the assise, &c. of his tenants, and "to have built a castle to the king's prejudice, and that of his castle at Norwich; and that if a war should happen (which God forbid) the king's enemies might have reception, destroy the country, and the neighbouring religious houses."

After this sir Ingelram Belet was lord; he was knighted in the 34th of Edward I. at Westminster, with Edward, the king's son, by bathing. He died in the 6th of Edward II. and held in this town Beechamwell, Wereham, Crimblesham, &c. and one fee and an half of the honor of Clare.

In the 19th of Edward II. Robert de Well was lord; and in the 39th of Edward III. John de Denham held it of the abbey of Marham, with the castle, late sir Ingelram Belet's, paying 22s. per ann. the rent of assise of the free tenants, villains, &c. amounted to 12l. 12s. 2d. q. per ann. and besides the demesne lands there were 372 acres. and three roods, held in villanage, 103 acres, and three roods, of aul'ond, 49 hens, 205 eggs paid yearly, and many reaping days of the tenants due in harvest, &c.

In the 9th of Richard II. it was in the hands of the abbeys and convent, being aliened thereto by Richard

chard Holditch, and John de Clenchwarton, trustees of John de Denham, for this purpose. It remained in the abbey till its dissolution, and was granted in 1547 to sir Nicholas Hare, &c. with the abbey manor, now united, and called New-Hall manor.

Mr. Parkin, in his *essay*, has erroneously accounted for a manor in this town, which never existed, and which he call'd

SHOULDHAM'S MANOR. Of this lordship, says he; which lay partly in this town, and partly in Shouldham. *I* have spoken at large in the said town, being held of the prior of Shouldham, by the family of Shouldham. *I* shall only observe, that Walter bishop of Norwich, about 1250, granted licence to Simon de Shouldham, and his heirs, for his own, and his family's use, to found a free chantry in his chapel, with the consent of the priory of Westacre, and the vicar of Marham.

WESTACRE PRIORY MANOR. Geffrey de Marham gave to this convent lands, with the rectories of St. Andrew's church, and that of the Holy Trinity, about the reign of king John, which were appropriated to it, and had the patronage of the vicarages.

In 1428 their temporalities were valued at 4l. 14s. 3d. and their spiritualities here at fifteen marks per annum.

The manor of Westacre priory, which at the dissolution of that priory came to the Spelmans, and a tract of pasture meadow, called Monks Fenn, containing about 100 acres, has continued in that family till within a few years, and then, together with the manor of Old-Hall, &c. was conveyed to the

earl of Clermont, and since passed to John Beevor, M. D. of Norwich.

In the 5th of Edward VI. Monks Fen was granted to Thomas Darcy, on April 4, to be held in socage, which afterwards belonged to the said priory.

Many religious houses had lands here.

In 1428 the temporalities of Castle-Acre priory were taxed at 34s. 4d. and their spiritualities at three marks and an half.

William earl Warren gave to the canons of Walsingham six furlongs of his marsh; and Isabel, countess of Arundel, his daughter, an acre. Sir Robert de Stradset gave two furlongs.

In the 38th of Henry VIII. October 21. Andrew Mansfield had a grant of the canons marsh, &c. and in the said year had licence to alien it to Elizabeth Spelman, and her heirs.

The temporalities of Coxford priory were 4d. of Sporle, in a turbary, 2s. of Wendling, in a turbary, 2s. of Massingham, in a turbary, 4d. The tenths of the town were 10l. 10s. deducted 2l.

There were formerly two churches in Marham, one dedicated to St. Andrew, the other to the Holy Trinity; this last is still standing; they were rectories united, and valued together at sixteen marks, granted to the priory of Westacre, and appropriated thereto; out of these the priory of Castle-Acre had a portion of tithe valued at three marks and a half; it consisted of two parts of the demesne of Hermer de Bexwell, and a moiety of the tithe of the whole fee

fee of Walter de Marham, which the bishop of Norwich confirmed to these in 1265; and the prior of Westacre had a manse belonging to these rectories, &c. The patronage of the vicarages, which were consolidated, was in the priory of Westacre, and they were valued at six marks; the vicar had a manse in king Edward's time. The present value of the vicarage is 6l. 13s. 4d. and is discharged.

The church now standing, of the Holy Trinity, has a nave, with a south aisle, and a chancel built of ragg-stone, clunch, or chalk, and covered with lead; at the west end of the nave stands a lofty four-square tower of flint stones, &c. with quoins, embattlements, &c. of free-stone, and four bells; on the top of this tower is a wooden shaft, or spire, covered with lead; the length of the nave is about sixty-three feet, and with the south aisle about thirty in breadth.

At the east end of the nave lye several marble grave-stones for the Shouldham's, &c. their inscriptions, shields of bras, &c. all disrobed.

In the lowest window of the nave, on the north side, are several arms:—Bernard, of Isleham, in Cambridgeshire; Lilling; Belet; Shelton; Berney; Brigge; Holworthy; and Tuddenham.

In the next window, as you ascend, &c. Wolveston; Fitz-Ralph; Fincham; Bond, of Essex; Burton; Trusbut; Beaupre; and Branch.

In the south aisle windows, Beauchamp, earl of Warwick; Carville; Shouldham; Tendring; and Lovel.

At the east end of this south aisle is a chapel, and therein a large altar monument, or tomb, whereon lye the statue of a man in compleat armour, a lion couchant at his feet, and that of his wife, both of chalk-stone, painted over, a canopy or cover above, and this inscription,—*Here lyeth the body of John Steward*, and Ann, his wife, which Ann was daughter of Humphrey Shouldham, esq. the said Ann died the 28th day of January, Ao. Dni. 1603, and the aforesaid John died February 16, 1604.*—On the summit is the quartered shield of Steward, consisting of twenty-three coats of arms, with this motto,—*Ferendo Sperando.*

This family of Steward, or Smart, came into England, and settled there in the reign of Henry IV. Sir John Steward who attended James, prince of Scotland, (on the sea-coast of Norfolk, crossing the seas for France) was taken prisoner with that prince, and marrying one of the maids of honor to queen Joan, settled in England.

Sir Robert Steward, of this family, is said to have encountered a lion in France, and his sword being broke in the engagement, feized on a staff, and with that slew the savage beast, for which action the French king gave him the bearing of the lion and ragged staff, as an augmentation of honor, as this dislich testifies:

*Francorum Carolus voluit sic stemmata ferri,
Singula cum valeant, sunt meliora simul.*

The

* He was fourth son of Simon Steward, esq. of Lakenheath, near Brandon, in Suffolk.

The late sir Simeon Stuart, bart. of Heartly Mauduit, in Hampshire, and of West Derham abbey, in Norfolk, was the lineal descendant of the aforesaid sir John, and sir Robert. But to proceed;—on the body of the tomb is—azure, an eagle displayed, or, Shouldham; also Steward with his quarterings; and in the east window, the arms of lord Bardolph, and Fitz-Ralph.

The chancel is in length about thirty-two feet, and in breadth about eighteen.

Besides the arms above-mentioned, here were formerly in this church the following arms;—Tony; Bexwell; Walcot; Charles; Rainham; Fastolf; Loudham; Bois; Heath; Sackford; and Fitton; Shouldham impaling Wilton; Shouldham and Wolfreton quarterly; and Shouldham and Rainham quarterly, &c.

In 1603 the vicar returned twenty-six communicants; and in 1778 the Rev. Thomas Carr was presented to this vicarage by the master and fellows of St. John's college, Cambridge.

The church of St. Andrew stood in the close near to the vicar's house, the site is still to be seen by the wall of flint in some places. It was standing in 1428.

The appropriated rectories, with thirty acres of glebe land, and the advowson of the churches, &c. on the dissolution, came to the crown, and so remained. Sir Thomas Mildmay farmed the rectories at 12l. 6s. 8d. per ann. in the reign of queen Elizabeth, and paid also 4l. per ann. to the heirs of the duke of Norfolk, for that portion of tithe which the

prior

prior of Castle-Acre had in this church, which had been granted to the duke. After this sir Francis Gawdy, the judge, had a grant of it, and held it in 1603, from whom it came to sir Robert Rich, (afterwards earl of Warwick) by the marriage of the judge's grand-daughter, who presented in 1610; he sold it to sir Ralph Hare, who presented in 1615. This honourable gentleman, being knight of the bath, gave to the master, fellows, and scholars of St. John's College, in Cambridge, and their successors, all the rectory, parsonage, and church of Marham, in Norfolk, with all its rights, &c. glebe lands, tithes of corn and hay, advowson of the vicarage, the master and fellows to employ the profits for three years for the new erecting a spacious library in the said college, and then to go towards the maintenance of thirty of the poorest and best dispos'd scholars residing there; dated April 13, 1623.

The stile and spirit of religion and devotion, whereby as a Christian he offers up this gift, is so exemplary, that the reader, we are perswaded, will excuse us for here inserting it.

“ Sir Ralph Hare, in all humility doth humbly
 “ offer this his gift hereafter mentioned, unto our
 “ Blessed Saviour Jesus Christ, God and Man, and
 “ in him to his beloved disciple, St. John, with all
 “ humility and penitence, acknowledging and con-
 “ fessing himself a most unworthy being, a great and
 “ miserable sinner, to offer this, or whatsoe'er else,
 “ unto his Divine Majesty, and withal acknow-
 “ ledging, confessing, and saying, with the holy
 “ prophet, David—*Domin⁹, tua est magnificentia et*
 “ *patientia et gloria, cuncta enim quæ in cœlo sunt, et in*
 “ *terra, tua sunt, tuum, Domine, regnum, et Tu es su-*
 “ *per omnes principes, tua divitiae, et tua est gloria, tu*
 “ *dominaris*

“ dominaris omnium.—Quis ego nisi peccator turpis et
“ miserrimus, ut hoc tibi promittere possum; tua sunt
“ omnia et quæ de manu tua accepi. Do tibi cum omni
“ humilitate in compunctione et contritione cordis mei.
“ Oh ne me projicias a facie tua Domine, Deus Abraham,
“ Isaac, et Israel, custodi in æternum hanc voluntatem
“ cordis mei, et semper in venerationem tui mens meæ
“ permaneat.”

In the field of Marham, east of the vicar's house, is a little hill called Chapel-hill, and a clay pit, part of the glebe; here a hermit had his station. This chapel was dedicated to St. Guthlak. In the 20th of Richard II. a patent was granted for a chantry here, so that it is certain that chantries were allowed of in such chapels.

The ABBEY, or NUNNERY of MARHAM. The nunnery of Marham was founded by Isabel, widow of Hugh de Albany, earl of Arundel, for cistercian, or white nuns, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, St. Barbara, and St. Edmund the king and confessor, by Richard de la Wiche, bishop of Chichester, on the 27th of January, in the year 1249, for the health of the souls of William, late earl Warren and Surrey, her father, and Maud, her mother, daughter of William Marshal, the elder, earl of Pembroke, Hugh earl of Arundel, her husband, and all her ancestors deceased, &c. and as the foundation deed is to be seen in Dugdale's Monasticon, beginning thus —*Univerfis Sancte Matris Ecclefie filiis, &c.* we shall here omit it.

On St. Bartholomew's-day, in the year of our Lord 1252, this nunnery was incorporated into the abbey of Waverley, in Surrey, the principal, first, and mother house of this order in England, by the abbots

abbots of Waverley and Beaulieu, in Hampshire; this incorporation was, as we conceive, the reason that some authors assert this house to have been founded in the year 1252.

It appears from the remembrance of the said house of Marham, that Walter bishop of Norwich granted licence for this incorporation, on the 6th of September, 1251.

The foundress endowed this house with the manor and lands which her father had in this town, which he gave her in frank marriage. This gift of the foundress was confirmed by John earl Warren, her brother.

The said foundress also afterwards purchased several lands, rents, &c. and gave to the said house.

Henry III. confirmed the foundation deed, and grants of the foundress, on the 3d of September, in the 36th of his reign.

Walter bishop of Norwich with the consent of the prior and convent of Westacre, and Nicholas vicar of the churches of the Holy Trinity, and St. Andrew, in Marham, grant to this house free sepulture in their own church, or chapel, by their own priests, and a power to say mass there, and perform divine services, on condition that none of the parishioners of the said churches be admitted to an holy sacrament, or there buried; and if any stranger should desire to be there buried, a salvo is made for the right of the said churches, dated the 9th of September, 1251; this was again ratified in 1294. It appears that the prior and convent of Westacre had (on this account) granted to them by the abbots and

and convent, a portion of tithe here, belonging to the said abbefs, &c. and the said Walter bishop of Norwich, with the will and consent of the foundress and patron, granted the said house, to their proper use, all the great and small tithe belonging to her demesne lands, and lordship of Marham, which the secular clergy used to receive of the gift of the lords of the manor, July 12, 1254.

Besides Marham, &c. Isabel de Albany, the foundress, gave this abbey lands in Kentford, Gayle, Needham, and Herringswell, in Suffolk.

Several other persons were liberal benefactors to this foundation, but as such instances of blind zeal reflect no honor on our ancestors, nor example to posterity, we purposely omit being particular.

Churches appropriated to this house.—Carlton-Forehoe, alias Carlton St. Peter, in the hundred of Forehoe. The advowson of this church was given by the foundress, and the bishop of Norwich appropriated it, and settled a vicar, whom the bishops of Norwich were to nominate, and this convent present, dated at Thetford the 4th of July, 1274.

Stow-Bedon, in Wayland. Edward I. gave the advowson for the health of his own soul, and that of his consort, Alianor queen of England; dated at Westminster, February 6, in the 20th year of his reign.

Didlington, in South Greenhoe. John earl Warren, &c. for the benefit of his own soul, &c. gave the advowson of this church; dated at Kensington, July 11, in the 20th of Edward I.

Hackford,

Hackford, in Forehoe. Sir Andrew de Hengham gave the advowson of the church of Hackford St. Mary, 1329.

Rockland St. Peter, in Wayland. Sir Robert de Behale, Adam de Blofield, and Robert vicar of Dillington, purchased of sir John de Cawston the advowson of this church, which was confirmed to them by sir Constantine Mortymer, in the 20th of Edward III.

In the 12th of Edward II. a fine was levied by John earl Warren and Surrey, by which he settled the advowson, or patronage of this house (which came to his family on the death of the foundress, without issue) on Thomas earl of Lancaster; and in 1347 the said earl John died seised of patronage, leaving Alice, his sister and heir, married to Edmund Fitz-Allen, earl of Arundel, but the patronage came to the house of Lancaster by the aforesaid fine; and in the 34th of Edward III. it was settled by Henry duke of Lancaster on Maud, his daughter and co-heir, married to William earl of Heinault; and in the 40th of that king his other daughter and co-heir, Blanch, and her husband, John duke of Lancaster, were possessed of it.

Many of the kings of England confirmed the grants and privileges of this house, as did Richard II. in his 9th year; and in the 20th of that king they had a patent for founding a chantry in the hermitage of St. Guthlak, in Marham.

The abbess had the privilege of proving the wills of those that died within the precinct or jurisdiction of this house, granted to this order by the popes. In 1401 a contest arose about this privilege, and it was

was allowed them by the bishop of Norwich, Joan Narburgh, then lady abbess, and Margery Harsyke, prioress; the abbess and convent received from the year 1401, to the year 1453, several mortuaries due from lay persons, &c. who died in their convent, and were probably there buried.

About this time the temporalities of this house, in the archdeaconries of Norwich and Norfolk, amounted to 27l. 9s. 7d. ob. q. and the spiritualities are valued at 57l. &c.

About 1251, and in the 5th of Edward I. the first abbess occurs.

In the 8th year of Henry VII. we find the profits and disbursements of the abbey for one year to be 46l. 18s. 1d. received.

Part of the account of Nicholas Houghton, their bailiff, or steward of their grainge, stands thus for the said year.

Wheat 53 quarters and 5 bushels.—Mellin 58 quarters and 6 bushels.—Rye 19 quarters and 6 bushels.—Oats 12 quarters and 4 bushels.—Malt 78 quarters and two bushels.—The rest relate to the cattle, sheep, &c.

The disbursements of the said year amounted to 69l. 19s. 5d. ob. besides the sum of 16s. and 8d. for 2od. a piece to the nuns, and 6d. given to thirteen poor people.

Barbara Mason occurs abbess in the 25th of Henry VIII. and was the last abbess. Amongst the evidences of the honourable sir Thomas Hare, bart.

is

is the seal of this house affixed to some deeds and grants, and one to a deed of this abbess; the seal is oblong, the impress is the figure of a lady abbess in her proper habit, standing in an antique arch curiously wrought, and holding in her dexter hand a crozier staff, and in her sinister hand, before her breast, something resembling an open book, and on each side of the arch is a shield—cheque, or, and azure, the paternal arms of the foundress, being the arms of the Warrens, earls of Surrey, &c. and under these shields a lilly; the upper part of the shield is broke, at the head of the abbess, as is the greater part of the legend, beginning—*Sigillum Abbat.*

This order of the cistercian nuns had many large privileges from the pope, probate of wills within their precincts, exemption from paying of tithes and procurations, and the liberty of bearing the crozier in processions.

The lady sacrist of this house had eleven acres and three roods of land, in Marham, annexed to her office, and the lady hostillar seven acres three roods and an half.

This house was dissolved in the 27th of Henry VIII. and stands thus differently valued: by Dugdale, at 33l. 13s. 5d. ob. q. Stephens, in his addition to the Monasticon, says, that the abbey of Marham St. Barbara was valued at 42l. 4s. 7d. $\frac{1}{2}$, the clear value 33l. 13s. 6d. $\frac{1}{2}$. and Speed has the same; but Weaver says, at 13l. 6s. 1d. ob.—It was certainly a religious house very meanly endowed, and on that account they were often pardoned and excused from the payment of their tenths, particularly by Edward I. in the 10th year of his reign.

On

On the dissolution the religious had these enormous crimes laid to their charge :

" * Barbara Mason *peperit semel, et fatetur se cognitam a priore de Pentney.*

Elizab. Lightfoot *semel peperit ex conjugato.*

Elizab. Plumer *peperit semel ex conjugato.*

Dorothea Lovel *peperit semel ex conjugato.*

Joanna Manne *peperit duas proles ex solutis.*"

The scite of this abbey, with the nuns church, or chapel, bell-tower, and the appurtenances, with the manor of Marham (as has been observed) was given by Henry VIII. on the 3d of July, in the 38th year of his reign, to sir Nicholas Hare, and John Hare, citizen of London, in whose family it still remains. This nunnery stood a little westward of the present church of Marham (the common way or road only being between them) in a large pasture close, inclosed with walls of clunch, or chalk-stone, dug out of some neighbouring pits. In the said close is a farmhouse, with large barns, &c. which seem, by the materials, to be built out of the ruins of the said abbey. The most observable building now remaining is, a very lofty wall of clunch stone, running east and west in length about seventy-three feet; this was the south wall of the church or chapel of the said abbey: near the summit of this wall were four oval windows, two of which are still entire. The whole length of this chapel was about ninety-nine feet, the breadth about thirty, and the space between them; the reason that the walls were so high, and of this form on this wall, was because the cloister here joined to it, which, with the area in the centre, was a square of ninety-nine feet, as appears from the ruins and foundation stones, and from the projection of the stonework of the said chapel wall which supported the

L timber,

* Compend, compertorium, pen. Pet Le Neve, armig. Norroy.

timber, roof, &c. on this north side of the cloister. No doubt in the north wall of this chapel the windows were large and lofty, but there are no remains of that, save the foundation.

Near the west end of this wall is a little building of stone, &c. in which are two or three arches, (supported by pillars of free-stone) now worked up, and which are now used to lay turf and other firing in; and over this is a dove-house, probably part of some old cloister leading to the church, or the charnel-house.

There are three capital manors extending over this and the adjoining towns, viz. Old-Hall, New-Hall, and Westacre priory.

This village, or town, contains between four and five thousand acres of lands, one half of which nearly consists of commons and fold-course land, which, as the towns in its vicinity have lately been inclosed and cultivated by act of Parliament, this most probably will likewise shortly enjoy the same fate. It is remarkable for its produce and quantity of game; and the smeeth, or fold-course, which is perhaps the largest and finest piece of grass turf in the county, is lately become the rendezvous of the nobility and gentry of the sporting kind; in the Houghton sporting seasons, the two first weeks of February and November, considerable matches for running with greyhounds, of the most excellent breed, are made by the nobility and gentlemen, the hares of this part of the county being reckoned the strongest and best runners in the kingdom, and the lords of the manors, by special order, prohibit coursing and hare hunting at those two seasons of the year.

Marham

Marham lies near the south bank of the river Nar, which is navigable up to Westacre for small craft. It is between the towns of Narborough, Fincham, and Shouldham, and is about six miles from Swaffham.

RISTON, called WEST RISTON to distinguish it from East Riston, in Happingley hundred: it is wrote Ristuna in Doomsday-book, and is now sometimes spelled Ryston.

The church of Riston is dedicated to St. Michael, and stands in a field by itself, about a quarter of a mile from Riston-Hall; it is built of rag or carr stone, and is a single pile, about thirty-three feet in length, and twenty-two in breadth. At the west end of the nave stands part of a little four-square tower, with the quoins of free-stone; the upper part of the tower lies open, and is broke down to the roof of the church. The chancel is in length about thirty feet, and in breadth about twenty-seven; this chancel has a roof like the nave, cambered, plastered, and covered with tile.

On the pavement lies a marble stone, with the arms of Pratt impaling Monins, and thus inscribed,—
Here lyeth the body of sir Roger Pratt, lord of this manor of Riston, who married Ann, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of sir Edward Monins, of Walershire, in Kent, knt. and bart. he died the 20th of February, A.D. 1684.

Against the north wall is an altar monument of stone and alabaster, on which lies the statue of a lady at her full length, in a cumbent posture, supporting her head with her right hand, which rests on a cushion all carved out of alabaster; the body of the monument is ornamented with flowers, fruit, &c.

and thereon this epitaph:—*Here lies the body of the Lady Pratt, whose first husband was sir Roger Pratt, of this place; her second husband was Sigismund Trafford, of Dunton-Hall, in Tidd St. Maries, in the county of Lincoln, esq. who caused this monument to be erected to her memory; she died the 12th day of September, 1706, in the 63d year of her age.*—And against the wall is a shield of marble, Trafford impaling Monins; the whole is inclosed with iron rails.

In Norwich Doomsday-book, wrote about the beginning of the reign of Edward I. Robert de Benhale was patron, and the rector had a house, with thirty acres of glebe land, valued at twelve marks; soon after it was appropriated to the priory of Norwich, October 24, 1342, for the repairs of the church of Norwich, reserving a pension of 6s. 8d. per ann. and the prior paying six marks per ann. for a curate to serve it.

In the year 1428 the spiritualities of the prior, &c. of Norwich, for this church, were valued at twelve marks, and are said to belong to the cellarer of the church of Norwich.

On the dissolution of the priory and convent of Norwich, it was granted in the 1st of Edward VI. to the dean and chapter of that church, who are the present impro priators, and lease out the tithes of this, and Roxham, an hamlet adjoining, belonging to the lord of this manor.

In 1603 the curate of Riston cum Roxham observes that there were then 53 communicants.

WEST RISTON MANOR. Hermerus de Ferrariis held the chief part of this town. One carucate possessed

fessed by Ketel, a free-man in Edward the Confessor's time. The whole being four furlongs long, and three broad, and paid 4d. to a 20s. gelt.

This lordship descended from Hermerus to the lords Bardolph, with Wormegay*, and was held under them by the family of Stradset; sir Roger de Stradset was lord when an aid was granted to Henry III. on the marriage of his sister to the emperor; many parts of this manor were held under the Stradsets, by several persons.

In the 10th of Edward III. licence was granted to John de L'Isle to give the advowson of this church, and the moiety of the advowson of Fordham, to the prior and convent of Norwich, to find a chaplain in the said church to pray daily for the souls of the said John, and Mary his wife, Robert de Ufford, and Thomas Roscelyne, &c. dated April 3, at the Tower of London; and on Thursday in Easter-week, in the next year of the said king, sir Robert de Benhale, knt. quitted all his claim and right therein to the prior, &c.

In the 33d of Edward III. Henry de Wetyng, capellane, and Stephen Talbot, of Fincham, gave to the abbey of West Dereham a messuage and lands here, held of John Hawkyn, by the payment of a shilling every twenty-four weeks; and the said John held by the knight's service of the lords Bardolph, having married Elizabeth, daughter and heir to the Stradsets.

L 3

William

* Reginald de Warren, lord of Wormegay, in the reign of king Stephen, gave the tithes of his manor of Barsale, in this town, to Carrowe priory, by Norwich.

William Dalling, in the 21st of Henry VI. gave this manor to William Yelverton, serjeant at law, &c. in trust, to be settled on William Gylour, and Margaret his wife, daughter of Dalling, in tail, with lands in Fordham, Roxham, &c. Walter Gylour was lord in the reign of Henry VII. and by a daughter of Gylour it came to the Pratts; William Pratt was lord, and by his will, dated December 4, 1557, desires to be buried in the church of St. Edmund of Downham-Market.

The Pratts derive from Robert Pratt, whose son, Edmund, was lord of the manor of Cartes, in Hockwold, and died in the 34th of Henry VIII. This Edmund married the heiress of Walter Gylour, and John was his son and heir.

William Pratt, son of John, by his will, dated as above, in 1557, gives this lordship, with lands, tenements, &c. in Roxham, Hilgay, Fordham, Denver, Downham, Dereham, and Bexwell, to Gregory Pratt, of Hockwold, and his heirs male; this Gregory was nephew to William, (who died without issue) and son of his brother, Edward Pratt.

Gregory was lord in 1573, and married Ann, daughter and co-heir of William Cocket, esq. of Besthorpe, in Shropshire hundred, by whom he had two sons, Gregory, and Francis.

The son of this Gregory was sir Roger Pratt, who died lord in 1684, without issue.

Edward Pratt, second son of Edward (brother to Gregory) then became heir at law. He was of Hockwold, and married Dorothy, daughter of William Cobb, esq. of Sandringham, and father of Edward

Pratt, of Honingham, in Suffolk, who, by Ursula his wife, daughter of — Rossington, of Framingham, in Suffolk, was father of Edward Pratt, gent. of Yoxford, in Suffolk, by Emma his wife, daughter of — Tiffin, of Crimbleham, widow of — Bexwell; he had Edward Pratt, of Woodbridge, in Suffolk, who married Mary, daughter of Anthony Applethwait, of Ipswich, and was heir, as we take it, to sir Roger Pratt; by Mary he had a son and heir, the late Roger Pratt, esq. lord of Riston, who by Henrietta, daughter of sir Robert Davers, bart. of Rushbrooke, in Suffolk, had two sons, Edward and Jermyn; Edward, the eldest, married a daughter of the late sir Jacob Astley, bart. and is now lord of all the manors in Riston cum Roxham.

The Rev. Jermyn Pratt is the present rector of Watlington, in this hundred,

WALPOLE-HALL was held by Barsale of the family of Stradset, and they of lord Bardolph.

In the reign of Edward II. it received its name from the family of Walpool, or Walpole, who then possessed it.

John Walsheff possessed it in the reign of Henry VII. In the reign of queen Elizabeth it was in the Pratts united to Riston manor.

At the survey the abbot of Ely had seized on three free-men who held six acres here, valued at 16d. per ann. under protection only; the abbot of Ramsey had the soc.

This was held in the time of Edward I. by the family of Beckeswell, or Bexwell, and continued so till it was united to Riston manor.

John Eyre, esq. had a grant of a messuage here, late belonging to West Dereham abbey, on Sept. 12, anno 36, Henry VIII.

The temporalities of West Dereham abbey were assed here in 1428 at 3s. 6d. per ann. The spiritualities of the prioress of Carrowe at 10s. and the priory of Norwich, in 1428, held the church of Riston, valued at twelve marks.

The leet was in sir Jeffrey Hare; fee 6d.

Riston is a depopulated village.—Ris gives name to many towns; Risby, in Suffolk, and Yorkshire; Risborough, in Bucks; Rissington, in Gloucestershire; and Risbridge hundred in Suffolk.

All these manors, and a considerable estate in this town, and Roxham, are now in the possession of Edward Pratt, esq. who resides principally at East Dereham, and is in the commission of the peace. He commanded a company in the western battalion of Norfolk Militia last war, and marched with the regiment to Portsmouth.

Riston-Hall is a handsome modern built house, situated in a park beautifully disposed with lofty timber, and young plantations. It is about two miles from Downham; and near to the road which leads from thence to West Dereham.

ROXHAM, wrote Rochedham in Doomsday-book, a little village or hamlet, now consisting of two or three

three farm-houses, was held partly (at the survey) by Rainald, son of Ivo, and Hermerus de Ferrariis. Rainald's part was held by the Derehams, with other lands, as part of his manor in Dereham, which the said family held also of the earls of Clare, who inherited the possessions of the aforesaid Ivo. In the said family it continued many years; Thomas Dereham was lord in the 21st of James I. after this it came to the Pratts, of Riston, where it now remains.

WALPOLE-HALL. The lords Bardolph held also lands in this place in capite; William, son of Hermerus de Bexwell, gave, by deed without date, to Henry de Walpool, all his right in lands, with the fishery of the Creek's-end, and was part of the manor of Walpole, in Riston, which extended into this township; William Barsale had also some part, or share of it, as had John de Weasenham in the 15th of Richard II. who conveyed then to John Fencham the fishery of Redbeach here, &c. John Walsheff, or Waltershefe, was lord in the reign of Henry VII. About the reign of James I. sir Thomas Lovel, and Edmund Skipwith, had a right herein; soon after it came to the Pratts, the present possessor being Edward Pratt, esq.

The abbot of West Dereham had messuages and lands here, in the tenure of William Carter, given September 12, in the 36th of Henry VIII. to John Eyre, esq. and in the 6th of Elizabeth *concealed* lands and tithes here, and in Barsale, were granted to Edward Dyer, and H. Cressener, April 10.

Lands also belonging to Pentney abbey were granted September 6, in the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, to Francis Chaloner, and William Butler.

The

The leet of this town, joined with that of West Dereham, was in sir George Hare.—Fee 2s. 8d.

It is probable here was formerly a church, or chapel, Riston cum Roxham rectories being mentioned as part of the revenues of the see of Norwich.

RUNCTON, or **RUNTON**, called South Runc-ton, in contradiction to North Runton, in Freebridge Lynn hundred. This village is sometimes called Runceton-Holme; it was given to the abbot and convent of Bury St. Edmund's, by Alfrick, bishop of Elmham, in the reign of Canute, king of England, and the abbot was lord in the Conqueror's time, as appears from the account in Doomsday-book. In Runton, St. Edmund held in the Confessor's time land, &c. always valued at 7l. 4s. There belonged to this manor of Runghetuna a beruit called Ifinghetun*, which lies in another hundred. This whole manor was one leuca in length, and five furlongs in breadth, and pays 8d. when the hundred pays 20s. to the gelt. Under the invasions of the abbot we find that he held 150 acres, which five free-men held in the Confessor's time; there were then two carucates and an half, now two and four borderers, valued at 20s. and he claimed it as the king's gift.

In the same village one free-man had half a carucate, &c. valued at 10s. there were also forty-six acres, &c. valued at 10s. which the abbot had seized on.

In the 24th of Henry III. the jury find that the abbot of Bury held this manor in pure alms of the king, and that it had once been the demesnes of several of the kings of England.

In

* *Quere.*—Islington, in Freebridge Marshland.

In the 3d of Edward I. the abbot claimed the leet-
assise of bread and beer, gallows, waif of his tenants,
and other privileges in his manors, here, in Holme,
and Wallington. In the 30th of the said king there
was an extent made (during the vacancy of the abbey;
then in the king's hands) by the free tenants and vil-
lains of this manor, who present that there was a ca-
pital messuage, curtilages, &c. with 198 acres of
arable land, and sixteen acres of meadow, value 16s;
a messuage in Wiggenhall, and a marsh called Ho-
miflode, land in Wallington called Pallingfode, a
toft called Wammingfod, a windmill, forty-two free
tenants, several villains, with their rents and services
named, and a fishery valued 5s. In the 3d of Ed-
ward II. we find it first wrote South Runcton.

It appears from ancient records that the abbot of Bury had very large liberties and privileges, not only within the bailiwick or franchise of St. Edmund; which contained eight hundreds and an half, in Suffolk, but also in their foreign, or outlying manors, viz. fines, amerciaments, the year-day, waste, felonies, and fugitives goods, goods of *felo de se*, and out-
laws goods, and that Edward III. by his charter,
dated July 22, in the 4th year of his reign, granted
the abbots, &c. to have all the liberties which he and
his predecessors had used, by virtue of any general
words in any former grants of the kings, his prede-
cessors. The several kings whose charters are there
recited are, Canute, Edward the Confessor, Henry I.
Richard I. John, Henry III. Edward I. &c.

The abbot and his tenants had a discharge from
contributing to the repairs of the gutters, banks, &c.
between Gering's Dam, and Fleming's Hithe, in
Watlington, as he and his tenants of Runcton had

no

no lands, tenements, or commonage in Watlington; dated Dec. 10, anno 24, Edward III.

This manor in a lease (dated Aug. 1, in the 8th of Henry VI.) of the abbot to Peter Sewale, is called *Rungton-Roper*; the rent was 2*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* per ann. all knights fees, the advowson of the church, reliefs, escheats, waifs, estrays, leet, profit of the church, &c. were excepted, and reserved to the abbot, &c.

After the dissolution of the abbey of Bury it remained in the crown till king Philip and queen Mary, in the 4th and 5th of their reign, on the 12th of February, granted it to John Caius, doctor of physick, and it was given by him to Caius College, in Cambridge, in which house it still continues. Dr. Caius was master of the college, and physician to queen Mary.

The temporalities of the abbot of Bury were taxed here, in 1428, at 2*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*—of Ramsey, at 1*l*.—and of the prior of Wormegay, here, or at North Runcion, at 1*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*

The leet of this town, Holme, Thorpeland, and Wallington, was in sir George Hare; leet fee together is 4*s.*

The prior of Broomholm had lands, or a little lordship here, and in Holme, given by William of Runcion-Holme. In 1428 their temporalities here were valued at 15*s.* This is now in Christ's College, Cambridge, and was held by the late sir William Brown, M. D.

The

The church of Runton is dedicated to St. Andrew, and was a rectory in the patronage of the abbot of Bury, given to that abbey, with the manor, by Alfrick, bishop of Elmham; to this village there belongs the abbot of Holme, with its chapel, and into this the rectors of Runton are instituted with the said rectory. The church appears to be a very antique pile, built of ragg stone, &c. dug in the neighbourhood, and lately repaired with brick in many places; it consists of a nave, and a chancel, covered with reed; the nave is in length about forty-seven feet, and in breadth about twenty-one; at the west end, near a window of the gable, (there being no tower) hangs a small bell.

At the east end of this nave, on the pavement, lies a marble with a bras plate—*To Amye Neve, wife of Thomas Neve, gentleman, who died March 23. An. Dom. 1637.*

Near to this lies another marble stone—*To Stephen Edgar, gent. who died June 28, 1653, aged 43.*

A third—*To Ann, the wife of Stephen Edgar, who died June 18, An. Dom. 1636.*

Between this nave and the chancel is a Gothic arch of great antiquity; the chancel is antique, and forms a semicircle, built of stone, but repaired with brick, it is in length about twenty-four feet, and in breadth about seventeen.

On the pavement here lies a marble stone, inscribed—*To Ester Edgar, the second wife of Stephen Edgar, gent. and daughter of Robert Carter, of Norwich, merchant, who died September 11, An. sal tis 1649.*

1639, *Annoq; Aetatis suæ 20.* Here also lyeth buried
her two daughters, who died young.

On another—*Thomas Neve, gent. who died July 18,
An. salutis 1639, Annoq; Aetatis suæ 65.*"

In 1301 Robert de Ereswell was presented by the abbot and convent of Bury: licence granted to this rector to serve one Sunday at Runceton, the next at Wallington chapel, and the third at Holme chapel.

Edmund Habirgent, rector of Runceton, by his will, dated the Monday after the Epiphany, 1416, desires to be buried in the church here, bequeaths to the church of Runceton Holme 20s. to the chapel of Holme 20s. to the chapel of Wallington 20s. and gives a purple cloth for a covering of the sepulchre of our Lord.

Ralph Harlyng (abbot and convent of St. Edmund's Bury) batchelor of decrees, rector of Runceton with its chapels annexed, being very sickly and aged, and also blind, resigned to us; and we, who present John Seman, of Stradefhull, was obliged to pay Harlyng a pension of seven marks per ann. during his life.

Roger Lane, rector, wills in 1488 to be buried in the church of St. James, of Holme, before the image of St. Mary, gives to its repair 6s. 8d. and the same sum to the repair of St. Andrew, of Runceton, and St. Margaret, of Wallington.

In the 6th year of Edward VI. on the 18th of December, that king gave the advowson of this church, and the chapels belonging, to Edward lord Clinton, and Henry Herdson, of London; afterwards it came

to judge Gawdy, &c. Robert Morley occurs rector about the year 1560, of whom archbishop Parker certifies, “*Dns. Rob. Morley, presbiter non conjugatus, satis doctus, residet, hospitalis, ibidem, non praedicat nec licentiatus, nullum aliud.*”

In 1603 the rector returned one hundred and two communicants.

The presentation has passed through many hands; and in 1778 the Rev. Philip Bell was presented to the consolidated rectory of Runceton-Holme, with Wallington, by his brother Henry Bell, esq. of Wallington.

This rectory is now valued in the king's books at 32l. and pays first fruits, &c.

The old value in 1304, with the chapel of Holme, was twenty-six marks, Peter-pence 18d. The hospital of our Saviour, at Bury, had a portion of tithe, valued at 6s. 8d. per ann. and the rector had sixty acres of glebe land.

The village of South Runceton lies on the road leading from Downham to Lynn, and the church, which stands on an eminence, is ruinous.

HOLME is an hamlet belonging to Runceton, and to the lordship of the abbot of Bury, and takes its name from its low and moist situation. The rector had here eighty acres of land, here was baptism and burial, and was valued with Runceton.

Cassandra de Holme had lands here in the 12th of Henry III. and the lady Isabella, relict of sir James Mafkerall

Maskerall, kn*t*. quit-claimed her right in a messuage in Holme to sir Philip de Eya, by deed without date.

TITLESHALE MANOR took its name from a family so called, and was probably possessed before that by the family of de Holme; Odo de Holme Rungton St. Edmund's, by deed without date, gave lands here to John de Titleshale, performing homages and certain services. It was after this possessed by the Trusbutts, &c. In the 2d of Henry VI. Henry Warner, of Watlington, conveyed to Laurence Trusbut, of Shouldham, a messuage, forty-one acres, and 14*s.* rent in this town, Thorpeland, Wallington, &c.

The Trusbutts were an antient family, and bore gyrony of 8, azure and ermin. Richard Trusbut was living in the reign of Henry III. and John, his son, lived at Shouldham in that of Edward I.

We do not mean to enter into a genealogical detail of this family, but only mention such circumstances as appear interesting.

Thomas Trusbut, esq. of Rungton-Holme, by his will, dated December 31, 1451, was buried in the church of Rungton-Holme. He possessed this manor and lands, &c. in Wallington, Thorpeland, Watlington, Tottenhill, Stow, Fincham, &c. also in Shouldham and Marham.

John Trusbut, esq. his son and heir, left by Elizabeth his wife (who survived him, and married Nicholas Girlington) Jane, a daughter and heir, who by marriage brought this lordship to Thomas Colt, esq. of Grey's-hall, in Cavendish, Suffolk, who was chancellor of the exchequer, one of the privy council

til to Edward IV. and dying about the 12th of that king, was buried at Cavendish; his widow, Jane, re-married to Sir William Parr, and dying anno 13 of the said king, left John Colt, esq. of New-ball, in Essex, her son and heir, in ward to Sir William, who, in the first of Henry VII. had livery of this manor.

George Colt, esq. in the 20th of Elizabeth, conveyed it to Thomas Shouldham, esq. from whom it came to Judge Gawdy. In the 9th of James I. Richard Godbould, of Fincham, was a trustee for it, and it afterwards came to the Botelers. — Boteler, esq. sold it to James Vernon, esq. commissioner of the excise, (brother to admiral Vernon) who was lord in 1750; and the right hon. Francis Vernon, lord Orwell, created earl of Shipbrooke of the kingdom Ireland in 1777, is now lord of Holme.

The Trusbutts were a family of good account. Agatha Trusbut was wife of William de Albiney, earl of Sussex, and lord of Rising Castle: she paid king John, at Lynn, in his chamber, an hundred marks of silver (a fine for his being in arms with the barons) on Tuesday after the feast of St. Dennis, in the 18th year of that king.—Telle Rege ap. Lenn. 11 Oct. This was but eight days before the king's death.

The chapel of Holme is dedicated to St. James, and is an old building, having a nave and a chancel built of ragg-stone, and covered with reed. At the east end of the nave, which is about fifty-two feet in length, lies a marble grave-stone, but the brasses are all reaved, probably in memory of Laurence Trusbutt, esq. At the west end is a four-square tower, the lower part of ragg-stone, and quoins of free-

M stone,

stone, the upper part (where it has decayed) is of brick, and embattled, in which hang three bells. The chancel is about twenty-four feet in length, and fifteen in breadth.

On the pavement, near the north wall, lies a marble grav.-stone, with the arms of Webb,—*Hereunder lieth interred the body of Lloyd Webb, son of Thomas Webb, esq. and Elizabeth his wife, who departed this life the 30th day of April, Anno Salutis, 1712, Aetatis sue 16.*

A little higher on the said pavement, a marble stone with the arms of Jenkin, impaling Hatfield:—*To Susanna, the daughter of William Hatfield, of Lynn, and wife of the Rev. Henry Jenkin, rector, who died Jan. 7, 1713, aged 46.*

In a small square marble stone near the middle of the area,

<i>R. I.</i>	
<i>S. T. P.</i>	
<i>Obt. Apr. 7. Aet. 70.</i>	
<i>S. I. } { R. I.</i>	
<i>Nov. 17. } { Decr. 22.</i>	
<i>Infantes Utrig; tenelli, 1727.</i>	

Against the south wall is a little mural monument of stone, ornamented with cherubims, and the arms of Jenkin, and on a black marble tablet in the centre, in letters of gold, is an inscription to—*Robert Jenkin, obt. 7mo. Die Aprilis, Ano. Dni. 1727, Aet. 70.*

This, as has been observed, is a chapel in the parish of Runceton, but had antiently the privilege of burial and baptism. The image of St. Christopher, in this chapel, is mentioned in 1442.

On

On the 3d of June, 1631, we find John Pullock instituted to this chapel, or church, on the death of the rector of Runcton, and presented by Robert earl of Warwick; and on the 31st of May, in the said year, Thomas Eales was instituted rector of Runcton, but we find only this single institution.

Holme church stands in a church-yard surrounded by the common, and within a mile of the river Ouse. It being annexed to South Runcton, has the same patron and rector.

SHOULDHAM, so called from a shallow little stream of water that runs through the town, thus Scole, Sculthorp, Scoulton, in Norfolk, &c*. In Doomsday-book it is wrote Sculdeham.

Rainald, son of Ivo, had a grant of a lordship held by Turchill, in the reign of the Confessor, containing land, &c. valued then at 60s. and at the survey at 40s. and 6d. Here were also, in the Confessor's time, ten free-men, with lands valued then at 6s. at the survey at 16s. Wihenoc (a dependent of Rainald) had seized on them for his master, and Ralph held it under Rainald.

This lordship, with others, came to the earls of Clare, and Gloucester.

SHOULDHAM PRIORY MANOR. Jeffrey Fitz-piers, earl of Essex, held it of the honor of Clare, in the reign of king John, and on his founding a priory in this town, settled it on that house, and the prior, in the reign of Henry III. held here and in Watlington one knight's fee, and the moiety of a fee of the earl of Clare.

M 2

In

* Parkin.

In the 3d of Edward I. the prior claimed many royal privileges, and in his 9th year a writ was directed to the barons of the exchequer, reciting, that the master and priors of the orders of Sempringham (of which order this convent was) had many privileges granted to them by the king's predecessors, and had been disturbed in using them; on this account the barons were ordered to have their charters read, and allowed in court.

On the dissolution of this priory, it came to Henry VIII. anno 1539, and remained there some time; in the 34th of that king, the rent of affise of this manor was 10l. 10s. per ann.—Perquisites of court 2l. 1s. 3d.—Lands farmed lett at 18l. 4s. 3d.—Fold-course 10l. per ann.

Edward VI. anno 7, May 6, granted it to Thomas Mildmay, esq. of Moulsham, in Essex, and sir Thomas Mildmay, his son, sold it January 12, anno 30 Elizabeth, to Francis Gawdy, esq. serjeant at law, &c. and came by his grand-daughter to Robert Rich, earl of Warwick. In 1632, sir Thomas Barrington, bart. sir William Marsham, and sir Nathaniel Rich, trustees of the said earl, conveyed it to sir John Hare, knt. of Stow-Bardolph, in which family it remains, sir George Hare, bart. being the late lord, in 1763.

TRUSBUTT'S and COLT'S MANOR. Ralph lord Bainard, at the survey, had a grant of a lordship on the deprivation of Ailid, a free woman, who was also deprived of many other manors. This consisted of two carucates in demesne, and two among the tenants, &c. two churches endowed with seventy-three acres, valued at 6s. 1d. the whole valued at 7l. In the other Shouldham, which shews that here

was

was Shouldham Magna and Parva, Ailid had two carucates in demesne, &c. and a salt pit*; one carucate among the tenants, &c. then valued at 100s. at the survey at 8l. All Shouldham is one leuca long, and half a one broad, and paid 12d. at a 20s. gelt.

This was the largest, or the chief lordship of this town, and on the rebellion of William lord Bainard, against Henry I. being forfeited, came after to the earls of Clare, and was held of them by Jeffrey Fitz-piers, earl of Essex, and so came to Shouldham priory. Roger Trusbutt had an interest in it in 1255.

In the reign of Henry III. Adam de Botefoy, John, his son, Robert de Bokenham, &c. held lands by knight's service of the prior; after this John Trusbutt gave the church of Shouldham All Saints to the prior; and John de Fincham and Thomas Rede, sold to Nicholas Trusbutt, of Shouldham, lands and messuages; John Lok and John Rede, burgesses of Lynn, conveyed messuages to them with many lands, and 8s. rent. Thomas Trusbutt, esq. dying in 1451, left it to his son William, who dying without issue, it came to Jane his niece, daughter and heir of John Trusbutt, his elder brother, who married Thomas Colt, esq. and George Colt, esq. in the 29th of Elizabeth, sold it to Thomas Shouldham, esq. who soon after conveyed it to Judge Gawdy, and so came to the earl of Warwick and to sir John Hare, and was united to the priory manor.

SHOULDHAM'S MANOR, in Shouldham and Marham. About a mile south-east of the town of Shouldham

M 3

lands

* This salt pit probably was at Lynn, where this lord had a salt pit.

stands an antique hall of free-stone ; the south part of it is in the parish of Shouldham, and the north part of it in Marham. This was the antient seat of the old family of de Shouldham, lords of this manor ; Sir William de Shouldham was lord in the 34th of Henry III.

The abbey of Castle-Acre had two parts of the tithes of the demesne of Simon de Shouldham confirmed to them by the bishop of Norwich, about 1260 ; this Simon was a knight. Walter bishop of Norwich, about 1250, gave licence to him and his heirs to have a free chantry in his chapel, founded by consent of the prior and convent of Westacre, patrons of the vicarage, and rectors of Marham.

In 1336, the prior received an horse as a principal on the death of Alice, the wife of Reyner de Shouldham, (buried at Marham) she dying in the mansion-house of Reyner, and in the limits or parish of the church of Shouldham All Saints, which limits (as it expressed) reach from a moiety of the said house, or messuage, towards the south.

In 1413, John Shouldham, esq. was lord, and performed homage to the prior, in the chapter house of the priory, on Sunday before the feast of St. Simon and Jude, in these words,—“ Here I become “ yeoman from this time forth, and truth shall you “ bear, and never arm again you in land of peace, “ nor of war, for lands and tenements which I “ claim to hold of you by knight’s service, so help “ me God and holy Dom.”—This John was one of those gentlemen of antient coat armour who were returned to serve Henry V. in his wars, An. 7.

Thomas

Thomas Shouldham, esq. was his son and heir; he lived at Watlington, and was there buried in 1467. Thomas Shouldham, of Marham, esq. his son and heir, married Ela, daughter and coheir of William Narburgh, of Narburgh, esq. who afterwards married Henry Spelman, esq. and died lord in 1472.

Humphrey Shouldham, esq. married, in the 3d and 4th of Philip and Mary, Ann, daughter of William Yelverton, esq. of Rougham, and dying in 1566, left Ann, his daughter and sole heir, who married John Stuart, esq. son of Simeon Stuart, of Lakenheath, in Suffolk, which John died in the 2d of James I. February 16th, lord of this manor, and left issue John lord of Braughing, in Hertfordshire. Francis, his son, married Roberta, daughter and co-heir of Richard Hoo, esq. of Scarning, in Launditch, and was father of Hoo Stuart, esq. who conveyed this lordship to the Bedingfields.

Daniel Bedingfield, esq. and Edmund Bedingfield, recorder of Lynn, were lords. Edmund dying without issue, gave it to his nephew Christopher Bedingfield, esq. of Wighton, in North Greenhoe, who leaving three daughters and co-heirs, conveyed it to sir Thomas Hare, bart. of Stow-Bardolph.

In some old writings the town is called Market-Shouldham, and there was a considerable grammar school. In 1462, the bishop granted to John Elvedon, L.L.B. the mastership of it. There are two fairs kept yearly for horses, cows, &c. on September 8, and Michaelmas-day, old stile, i.e. September 19, and October 10.

The leet was in the Hare family; the fee 2s.

SHOULDHAM PRIORY. The priory of Shouldham was founded by Jeffrey Fitz-piers, earl of Essex, and dedicated to the Holy Cross and the Bleſſed Virgin, for a prior, canons, and nuns of the order of St. Gilbert of Sempringham, who endowed the ſaid house with the manor of Shouldham, and its members " in Caneham, Wyrham, Wrotton, Boketon, Stokeferry, Carboſthorp, Fofton, Stratfet, Totenhille, Watlyngton, Wallyngton, Bekewell, Fordham, Welle, Wygenhale, Seche, Sadlebowe, Clenchwarton, Low, and Wrangle," excepting one hundred and twenty acres of demeſne, arable lands, a capital meſſuage, with gardens, a park, and paſture for one hundred ſheep, and ten cows, the homage and ſervice of his free tenants in Shouldham, which he kept in his own hands; and by the conſent of John bishop of Norwich he also gave and appropriated to them the churches of All Saints, and St. Margaret's, in Shouldham, the churches of Carboſthorpe, Stokeferry, and Wyrham, with their appurtenances, which he held of Richard earl of Clare. The ori- ginal deed of gift being in Dugdale's Monasticon Anglican, we ſhall not here tranſcribe it, but only ob- ſerve, that the witneſſes to it were, Hubert archbi- ſhop of Canterbury, bishop of Norwich, Walter, abbot of Waltham, Roger Bigot, &c. by which it appears that it was founded before the year 1201, in which year Walter the abbot died.

The founder had theſe eſtates in deſcent by his wife, whose grandfather married Beatrix, ſister to Jeffrey Mandeville, earl of Essex, in whose right the ſaid Jeffrey Fitz-piers (the family of Mandeville be- ing extinct) was, on the coronation of king John, created earl of Essex, and held many great lordships. This Jeffrey was a person of great power and autho- rity in that age, and chief juſticiary of England, and dying

dying on the 2d of October, 1212, was buried in this priory, where, on the foundation of it, he had removed the body of his wife who died in child-bed, and was buried at first in the priory of Chickland, in Bedfordshire.—His character in history is agreeable to his station: his death is said to be the general loss of the whole nation, being a firm pillar thereof, generous, and skilful in the laws, and allied to all the great men of England, either in blood or friendship, so that king John feared him above all mortals. for 'twas he that held the reins of government, and after his death the realm was like a ship lost in a tempest without a pilot. Hollingshed says that this epitaph was inscribed on his monument:

*Hoc in sarcophago sepelitur Regis Imago,
 Qui moriens, multum sedavit in orbe tumultum
 Et cui correcla dum vixit probra manebant,
 Hunc mala post mortem timor est ne fata sequantur
 Qui legis haec metuens, dum cernis te moritum
 Discito quid rerum pariat tibi meta dierum."*

The said Jeffrey Fitz-piers, earl of Essex, gave to this priory in pure alms, to find lights in the church of the priory, and wine to consecrate the body and blood of our Saviour, twelve shops, with rooms over them, in the parish of St. Mary of Colechurch, in London. Jeffrey, his son and heir, assumed the name of Mandeville, and was earl of Essex, and died without issue.—William de Mandeville, earl of Essex, second son of the founder, confirmed the gift of his father, and gave to this house all the mes-
suage and demesne lands, homages, and services of free tenants, which his father reserved and kept in his own hands, and was buried at Shouldham.

Roger

Roger earl of Clare confirmed the same, as capital lord of the fee, saving to himself and his heirs the service of one knight's fee and an half, and suit of court once a year at Clare, by the prior or his attorney. Several smaller benefactions were added to this foundation.

The patronage of this priory continued in the eldest branch of the founder's family till the death of William de Mandeville, earl of Essex, second son of the founder, by his first wife Beatrix, in the 23d of Henry III. who was buried (as his elder brother had been) in this priory; and then it descended to the second branch of the founder's family, by his second wife Aveline, and his great grandson (by the said Aveline) Richard, Lord Fitz-John dying without issue, in France, in the 25th of Edward I. it came to William de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, who married Maud, eldest sister and co-heir of the said Richard.

In Wiggenhall this house held sixty-four acres of pasture, which was given, at the dissolution, by Edward VI. to Roger Le-Strange, and in Wiggenhall St. Peter they had a manor, valued in 1428 at 10l. 5s. 1d. per ann. which, in the 3d and 4th of Philip and Mary, was given to sir John Perrot, knt.

In the 12th of Edward I. a fine was levied, by which Richard de Brandon, and Agnes his wife, gave to the prior of Shouldham lands in South Lynn.

William Beauchamp, earl of Warwick, who married Maud, the eldest sister and co-heir of Richard lord Fitz-John, is said by sir William Dugdale to have two daughters, nuns, in this house, at his death; and

and the said author asserts, that Guy, eldest son to Thomas earl of Warwick, by his last will, dated September 26, in the 33d of Edward III. gave the church of Necton, in Norfolk, in his patronage, to be appropriated to the monastery of Shouldham for the maintenance of Catherine and Elizabeth, nuns there, during their lives: but this is a mistake; for the rectory of Necton was appropriated to Westacre priory, and not Shouldham, and the account is faulty.

Henry duke of Warwick dying in 1446, and his daughter and heir, Ann, dying a minor, the patronage of this priory came to Richard Neville, the great earl of Warwick, by the marriage of Ann, sister and sole heir to the aforesaid duke; and after the death of this earl, Ann, his countess, conveyed the patronage of this house, together with many lordships, to Henry VII. in the 3d year of his reign, and it remained in the crown at the dissolution.

This priory being of the order of St. Gilbert, it may not be improper to give some *passant* account of the founder and order. This Gilbert was born at Sempringham, in Lincolnshire, his father's name was Jocelinus, of Norman extraction, and having large possessions there, sent his son into France for the improvement of his learning, and on his return home was presented by his father to the churches of Sempringham, in Lincolnshire, and Terrington, in Norfolk. After this he was chaplain to Alexander bishop of Lincoln, by whom he was ordained priest. About this time he became exemplary for his piety, despised all wordly honors, &c. and refused to be an archdeacon in the church of Lincoln. He flourished in the reign of Henry I. and in that reign began his order in this manner:—Seven young virgins, moved by his

his devotion, voluntarily left the world, and confined themselves in a solitary habitation adjoining to the north wall of the church of Sempringham, submitting to his government and direction. Their apartment had but one door, which was kept locked, and their diet and relief they received in at a window; for the assistance of these Gilbert appointed certain lay sisters, and for the outward service of the house certain lay brothers; from this beginning this order increased to many monasteries, and pope Eugenius appointed him the master, or governor of the order. To assist him in the office of superintendence he appointed clerks, who were to take part of the care of the government of his nunneries, and this was the original of the canons of this order. These canons were to live in a separate habitation, and never to have any access to that of the nuns, unless for the administration of some sacrament, and that before many witnesses, but the same church was to serve for both. Yet had they two rules; the canons that of St. Augustine, the nuns that of St. Benedict.

This Gilbert is celebrated by monkish historians for his great abstinence, sanctity, and other austeries of life, but yet he could not escape the censures and scandals of some of his own lay brethren, which indeed were unavoidable in such a mixed society and order, but his innocence and merit was certified by almost all the bishops of England, and by Henry II. himself. He lived above an hundred years, died in 1189, and was buried at Sempringham, in the presence of all the priors and prioresses of his order, several other abbots, and noble persons, &c. Many miracles are by the Romish votaries said to be wrought through his intercession; an enquiry into the truth of them was made at Sempringham, in 1201, before certain commissioners appointed by Hubert archbishop

archbishop of Canterbury, and after that by papal authority; the result of which was, the canonization of Gilbert, and the inserting his name in the catalogue of the Romish saints, in 1202.

This order maintained its credit for some time, but at length these epicene, or hermaphrodite monasteries, (as they have been called) of men and women, so degenerated, that a poet says of them

*Vix mulier quævis sterilis reperitur in illis,
Donec eis etas talia posse neget.*

There's scarce a nun that's barren found,
'Till sixty years she's stoo'd her ground.

The founder, Gilbert, being thus canonized, his order grew great, and swelled with singular privileges from temporal princes, as well as the see of Rome. King John took all the houses of this order, their men, servants, &c. into his immediate protection, made them free from all toll, tribute, &c. as appears by a very particular charter. Pope Innocent, by his bull, privileged them that they should not be carried above two days journey from their own priory by letters from the see of Rome, on any cause or account whatsoever, and pope Lucius exempted them from the payment of tithe.

The prior had a charter for free warren in the 33d of Henry III. in all his demesne lands.

The nuns of the church of St. Mary, of Shouldham, had a confirmation of their privileges in the 38th of Edward III. and had temporalities in Norwich, taxed 4d. ob. q. for tenths, in 1428.

But

But these mighty privileges could not screen them from the general dissolution in the reign of Henry VIII. for on the 15th of October, 1534, Robert Swift, the prior, with nine canons, and seven nuns, surrendered this house into the king's hands, valued then at 171l. 6s. 8d. per ann. as Speed; and as Dugdale, 138l. 18s. 1d.

At which time the king was pleased to grant pensions to them for their annual subsistence.

On the dissolution John Holme, John More, and Richard Fuller, canons, confessed, and were found to be incontinent.—Joan Plumstead, peperit ante introitum.—Marg. Pemberton, peperit ex presbytero. Compend. Comportor.

This priory being thus surrendered into the king's hands, it remained in the crown till Edward VI. on the 6th of May, in the 7th year of his reign, sold (as has been observed) the manor of this town, and the scite of this dissolved priory, with all the mesfuages, grainges, &c. belonging to it in Sholdham, for 1049l. 9s. 4d. $\frac{1}{2}$ to Thomas Mildmay, esq. and by sir Thomas, his son, it was sold, in the 30th of Elizabeth, to judge Gawdy, and so descended to the earl of Warwick, and came to sir John Hare, sir George Hare, bart. being the late lord and owner.

The seal of this priory was oblong, of red wax, the impress was of the Blessed Virgin, standing on the right side of the shield, and on the left an angel, with his right wing elevated above his shoulder, and the left wing depressed, having a scroll before them, (probably the words of the salutation) the legend—*Sigillum prioris et conventus de Shuldham.*

Besides

Besides the churches appropriated to this priory by the founder, they had the rectory of Stanford, in Grimshoe hundred, in 1301, the gift of William de Mortimer, of Attleburgh, and a vicar was then settled, whom the prior and convent presented, and the bishop of Norwich nominated.

Fincham St. Martin, in Clackclose:—the rectory was appropriated to this house in 1350, and a vicar settled, also a pension was paid by the prior and convent of 26s. 8d. per ann. to the bishop, and the vicar to be presented by the prior and convent; this was the gift of the lord Bardolph.

Caistor Holy Trinity, in East Flegg, appropriated in 1387, on July 10, given by the lord Bardolph, and a vicarage settled, to which the prior presented, and the bishop nominated.

The temporalities of the prior and convent in Shouldham were valued at 9*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* ob. in the year 1428; and the spiritualities in Shouldham All Saints, and St. Margaret, at sixteen marks and an half.

The sum of all their spiritualities and temporalities in the county of Norfolk was valued in the said year at 18*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* q.

The spiritualities of the abbot of Westminster, a portion of tithe here, in 1428, 1*l.* 10*s.*

SHOULDHAM ALL SAINTS. At this time there is but one church standing in Shouldham, at the east end of the town in the fields, which, as we conceive, is the church of All Saints. It consists of a nave, in length about sixty-nine feet, and in breadth about twenty-

twenty-four; on the south side of this nave is a small chapel, about fifteen feet in length, and ten in breadth; in a window there are some remains of a shield, Weasenham.—This chapel was probably dedicated to the Virgin Mary; for mention is made of that chapel in the church of All Saints, in Shouldham, in 1504. At the east end of this nave is the chancel, about thirty-four feet in length, and twenty-five in breadth; the roof of this is of oak, as is that of the nave, which is boarded between the spars, and covered with reed. At the west end of the nave stands a four-square broad tower of rag-stone, &c. with which the church is built, coped with quoins of free-stone, and embattled with brick; in this tower hang four bells.—On the top of the west wall of the church yard, near the tower, lie several large grave-stones, probably brought from the abbey, at, or since the dissolution, and serve for coping stones to preserve the wall; on these are the insignia of a knight templar, the cross *pattee* on the head of a staff.

The church was appropriated, as has been observed, to the priory of Shouldham in the reign of king John; in the beginning of the reign of Edw. I. we find that the prior then held it; and received all the tithes, as well great as small, from sixty houses belonging to it, the houses of Simon de Dulyngham, and Stephen de Shuldham, being excepted, out of whose demefnes the prior of Castle-Acre took two garbs, and the prior of Shouldham the third garb. Peterpence 8d. It was then valued, together with the church of St. Margaret, and Castle-Acre portion, at sixteen marks.

In

In 1603 Richard Harrison served the cure, when there were 192 communicants here, and in Garboisthorpe, alias Shouldham-Thorpe.

ST. MARGARET'S, SHOULDHAM. The scite of this church is at present unknown; it is probable that it fell about the dissolution of the priory: that it was standing in 1519, appears from the will of John Ryches, who "bequeaths his body to be buried in the church of St. Margaret, at Shouldham," dated 1st of March, in the said year. This church was also appropriated to the priory and convent, who received all the tithes great and small. Both the churches were served by one of their canons, or some stipendiary priest, till the dissolution, when they came to the crown, and from Edward VI. to Thomas Mildmay, afterwards to Gawdy, Rich, and Hare; and the late sir George Hare, as lord of Shouldham, &c. had both the impropriations, and found a curate for the parish; it was valued with All Saints. Peter-pence 6d.

There were anciently in the church of Shouldham (but which church is not mentioned) these shields and arms:—Scales; Beaucham, quartering Clare, Neville, and Montague; Monthermer with a label, azure; Sable a chevron, argent, quartereth the lord Spencer; Walkfare; Weasenham; Trulbut; and Gryfe.

The village of Shouldham is situated about one mile east of the turnpike road from London, ninety-five miles; to Lynn-Regis, seven miles; and is a populous and extensive township.

The country round it is very open, and, excepting the marsh grounds, is of a light, but fertile soil.

The Rev. Joseph Forby is curate of the consolidated churches of Shouldham All Saints, and St. Margaret; and sir Thomas Harris, knt. of Finchley, in Middlesex, in right of his marriage with a sister and coheiress of the Hare family, is now lord and patron. The other sister and coheiress married the lately deceased Thomas Moore, D. D. who had Stow-Bardolph, Wimbottisham, Downham, &c. in her right.

SHOULDHAM-THORPE. In the Grand Survey, or Doomsday-book, it is called Carboisthorp, from a clear stream of water, or rivulet, arising here, and running to Fincham, &c. thus, Carbroke, and Bo Isle, a winding water, as Hobois, Boethorp, or Besthorpe, &c.*

Hermerus de Ferrariis, lord of Wormegay, had seized on eighty acres of land, &c. possessed by eleven free-men, and the moiety of another, with a borderer and three carucates, valued at 17s. and the moiety of the church endowed with sixteen acres, valued at 12d.

In the reign of Henry III. Alexander le Moyne, or Monk, &c. held it of the lord Bardolph, baron of Wormegay, and after him the Russells. In the 9th of Edward II. Nicholas Russel held it, and paid yearly a pair of gloves. Ralph Russel was lord in the 20th of Richard II. Nicholas Seman, and John Sewel kept their court here in the 19th of Hen. VIII. after this it came to the Harpleys; Thomas Harpley, junior, of this town sold it to the Gawsells. Thomas Gawsell,

* Parkin.—Where the Rev. author saw this *clear and winding stream of water* we acknowledge ourselves at a loss to determine. That there is a rivulet which runs by Fincham is certain, but it does not rise at Shouldham-Thorpe.

Gawfell, and Richard Godbold, held their first court on April 10, anno 8 Elizabeth; and William Butts, gent. kept his first court Sept. 27, anno 11 Elizabeth. William Butts, his father, married Ursula, relict of Richard Gawfell, esq. of Watlington, and presented to that church in her right, in 1563.

William Butts, esq. by his will, dated March 21, 1624, was buried in this church, near to his mother, his father was also buried here. On his death the estate came to his brother, Leonard, who conveyed it to sir John Hare, and was lately possessed by sir George Hare, bart. deceased.

Another part of Hermerus's fee was held by a family that assumed their name from this town.

In the 54th of Henry III. Walter de Thorpe conveyed to Gilbert de Thorpe two carucates of land, with lands in Bexwell; and in the 11th of king John Emma Belet sued Eda de Thorpe for certain customs and services, &c. and for finding a man three days in harvest with meat and drink, to preside over the reapers with his *rod*, or *wand*.

Martin de Thorpe in the 7th of Edward III. sold it to Adam de Fincham, with land, &c. here, in Stradset, &c. and John Fincham was lord in 16th of Richard II. and then alienated lands here to Ely priory. Afterwards it came to judge Gawdy, so to the earl of Warwick, sir John Hare, &c. as above.

Rainald, son of Ivo, had at the survey, in this town, one soeman, who possessed two acres, valued at 3d.

This came to the earls of Clare, and was part of the priory manor of Shouldham.

Ralph lord Bainard had a grant of the lands here and in Tottenhill, which twenty-two free-men and the moiety of another were deprived of, who held under Ailid in the time of the Confessor one hundred and ten acres, and a carucate in demesne, valued at 40s. In the whole it was four furlongs long, and three broad, and paid 6d. gelt, and Ralph claimed it by an exchange.

On the rebellion of William lord Bainard against Henry I. this lordship came after from the crown by grant to the earls of Clare, and being held of them by Jeffrey Fitz-piers, earl of Essex, was granted to his priory of Shouldham. On the dissolution of that monastery it came, with the priory, to Thomas Mildmay, afterwards sold to judge Gawdy, so came to the earl of Warwick, and to sir John Hare, sir George Hare, bart. being the late lord.

The tenths were 2l. 16s. Deducted 6s. 8d.—
Temporalities of Shouldham priory, 8l. 14s. 10d.—
Of Wormegay, 12s.—Leet in sir George Hare, bart.
fee 2s.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, has a nave, and chancel covered with lead; the tower was at the west end, with three bells, and fell down in 1724.

At the west end of the nave (which is about forty-nine feet long, and twenty-one broad) lies a marble grave-stone, which had a bras plate on it—*Orate p. aiab; Tho. Foslon et Margarete uxs. sue nup. de Shouldham*

ham Thorp, qui diem clausit extremum 210. mensis Decemb. Ao. Dni. 1434.

By his will he gave 12l. to buy a halle fowte (whole suit) of vestments to serve to the honor of God, and our blessed Lady, &c.

Against the wall of the nave, at the south-east corner, is a mural monument of stone, with the effigies of three children kneeling; over them—*Blessed are the dead which dye in the Lord*; and on the summit, three shields; the first, Butts, impaling Tyndal of Hockwold, in Grimshoe; quartering in the 2d quarter Felbrigg, of Felbrigg, in North Erpingham. In the 3d, arms of the duke of Theise. Sir Simon Felbrigg, knight of the garter in the reign of Henry V. married Margaret, daughter of the duke of Silesia and Theise, and niece to the king of Bohemia, by whom he had Alana, his daughter and heir, married to William Tyndal, father of Thomas, whose son William was knighted at the creation of Arthur, prince of Wales, and declared heir of the kingdom of Bohemia, in right of Margaret aforesaid.—In the 4th quarter, Scales.—In the 5th, Mundesford.—In another shield is the quartered coat of Steward, impaling, quarterly, in the 1st and 4th, Butts, in the 2d and 3d, Cocket.

The 3d shield is Butts impaling Cocket, and on the monument this inscription,—*In this chancel lyeth buried, Jane, Ann, and John, three of the children of Thomas Steward, of Little Barton, in Suffolk, esq. and Frances, his wife, eldest daughter of William Butts, of this town of Shouldham Thorpe, in Norfolk, esq; deceased; the said Jane was buried the 27th day of Feb. An. Dom. 1590; and the said Ann, the 19th day of*

November, An. Dom. 1591, and the said John the 11th day of February, An. Dom. 1602.

At the end of the nave lies a grave-stone, thus inscribed,—*John Dawnes, gent. born at Outerborne, in Hampshire, died June the 16th, 1722, in the 55th year of his age.*

The chancel is in length about eighteen feet, in breadth about seventeen.

On the pavement lies a little marble stone,—
Here lyeth the body of John Godfrey, the son of John Godfrey, esq; late of Hindringham, who died October 28, 1667, aged 3 months.

Against the south wall is a little plain black marble stone; in the centre of this is a small piece of white marble, wherein is delineated the portraiture of a man on his knees, with a desk before him, and the shield of Butts, impaling Cocket, and his epitaph.—*Thomas Butts, 3d son of William Butts of this town, deceased 1600.*

The seats of this chancel are of good oak, and carved.

This church was given, together with the manor, by Jeffrey Fitz-piers, earl of Essex, to the abbey of Shouldham, and appropriated to it on its foundation; it was then a rectory, and had one carucate of land, valued at ten marks—Peter-pence, 6d.

Hermerus (as Doomsday-book informs us) had half of the church, &c. by which we understand an alternate turn in it; but his descendants quitted, most likely, their claim; for we find it given wholly

to Shouldham, by the said Jeffrey Fitz-piers, and the church was served by a canon of that house, or a stipendiary curate. The prior, &c. paid, about 1349, 13s. 4d. for the tenth of this church, granted then to the king, the priory being then, as it is said, much impoverished by mortality, pestilence, and the leaving off of tillage; and the prior paid the same for tenths in 1424.

On the dissolution of Shouldham abbey, this appropriated rectory came to the crown, and was given by Edward VI. in his 7th year, to Thomas Mildmay, esq. to be held by him in free socage of the manor of Greenwich.

After this it came to Francis Gawdy, &c. and went together with the lordship, as is before observed, and the late sir George Hare, of Stow-Bar-dolph, bart. was impropriator and lord.

In 1603, the curate certified, that here were ninety-eight communicants, and was served by him, with Shouldham, for 13l. per ann.

The village of Shouldham-Thorpe stands on the summit of a hill (if any ground in Norfolk may be so termed) near to the turnpike road between London and Lynn. In front of the houses is a green, with a large standing pool; but we do not agree with Mr. Parkin that any *stream* flows from it.

The Rev. Love Shipley, vicar of Stradset, has this curacy.

SOUTHREY, or Sotherby. The Saxon king Edmund the Elder, father of king Edgar, in his 9d year, gave this town to Theodore, who was bishop

N 4 of

of London, and of Elmham, in Norfolk, (or of the East Angles) and was called at that time Sutreia, or the South Island, in respect of Hilingeia, or Hilgay.

The said bishop, not long before his death, gave it to the secular clergy of Bury abbey, before the new foundation of king Canute for Benedictine monks. Theodore flourished about the year 940.

At the survey, we learn, that it then was the lordship of that abbey, valued before at 32s. at the survey at 4l. was half a leuca long, and four furlongs broad, and paid 3d. gelt.

The abbot was also at this time lord of part of Hilgay, Fincham, Runcton, and Thorpe, in this hundred—of two lordships in Freebridge—of one in Shropham—of five in Giltcros—of one in Launditch—of one in Forehoe—of one in Blofield—of five in Henstead—of five in Earsham—of nine in Diss—of four in Loddon—of six in Depwade—and of three in Clavering hundred.

The abbot had here, and in all his manors, royal privileges, by grant from the crown, and in the time of Edward I. it was appropriated to the office of the cellarar in the said abbey.

At the dissolution it came to the crown, and was given by Henry VIII. on July 5, in his 36th year, with the advowson of the church, to James Hawes, and so came to the Willoughbys, with Hilgay, and on a partition of the estate of sir Henry Willoughby, a moiety of it came to George Purefoy, esq. by the marriage of Catherine, one of the daughters and co-heirs of sir Henry, and another moiety to sir Henry Grey, by another daughter and co-heir; and

wc

we find Knightly Purefoy, esq. and sir Henry Grey, charged with the fee-farm rent, 1l. 4s. 8d. per ann. and George Purefoy, esq. presented in 1670.

In 1689, Willoughby Grey presented to the church as lord; and in 1705, Mrs. Elizabeth Grey. After this it came to sir Thomas Aston, bart. of Cheshire, lord when Mr. Parkin wrote; Sir Willoughby Aston, bart. of Wadley, in Berkshire, was his heir.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a very antique plain building, consisting of a nave about fifty feet long, and twenty broad, with a chancel, both covered with thatch; at the west end of the nave is a little four-square tower of ragg, and carr-stone, with two bells, and a cap to it covered with tile.

On the pavement, by the pulpit, lies a grave-stone with a shield in brass—Stokes; and on a brass plate, —*Here lyeth the wife of William Stokes, late of Wyverston, in the county of Suffolk, gent. She departed the 11th day of February, An. Dni. 1632, aged 81 years.*

The chancel is in length about nineteen feet, and in breadth fifteen.

On the pavement lies a grave-stone with the arms of Constable, and thus inscribed,—*Here lyeth the body of Robert Constable who was rector of Southrey nineteen years and three months; he was the son of Thomas Constable, and Elizabeth his wife, late of St. Paul's, Covent-Garden, London; he departed this life the first day of Oct. 1689, in the 54th year of his age.*

Against the south wall of the chancel is a small mural monument, with a shield,—Tyrrell; and a poetical

poetical epitaph, — *Jane, wife of Johan. Tyrrell, de Gypping, in Suff. who died Oct. 7, 1638.*

The first rector, which occurs in 1300, was presented by the abbot, &c. of Bury St. Edmund's.

In 1526 this church was valued at nineteen marks.

In 1541 the rector was presented by the king, who was deprived in 1553, being *married*.

In 1554 Henry Hawe, gent. presented.

There were in 1603 ninety-four communicants here, as returned to the king by the rector.

In 1642 sir Henry Willoughby, bart. presented; and in 1670 George Purefoy, esq. and Knightly Purefoy, gent.

In 1737 the Rev. Cuthbert Jewell was presented to this rectory by Joseph Sewell, esq. *p. h. v.*

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 7l. 10s. Old value was nineteen marks. The rector had in the time of Edward I. a manse, with twenty-four acres of land.

The village of Southrey stands on a hill, or land-island, surrounded with fen and marsh grounds. The road from Lynn and Downham to Ely, Cambridge, and London, passes through the town; and there is a ferry across the river Ouse.

STOKE-FERRY. This town stands on the river Wifsey, (which divides it from the hundred of Grimshoe) on the post road from London, Newmarket, and

and Brandon, to Lynn, Downham, &c. In the book of Doomsday it is wrote Stoches, not taking its name (as is thought by some) from stock, that is, some wood; but from stow, a dwelling, or habitation, and Ches, by the water; thus, Ches, or Kess, signifies, as Cheswick, Chesham-Bois, Cheston, &c. all which answer to such a scite.

Rainald, son of Ivo, at the survey had a grant of a lordship which four free-men held under protection, &c. valued at 20s. This was measured with Wereham, and joined in the payment of the gelt. Rainald's interest herein came after to the earls of Clare.

The principal part of this town was held at the survey by Ralph lord Bainard, which thirteen free-men held in soccage, valued at 6s. the fourth part of the advowson of a church endowed with five acres, valued at 5d. and the right of another church endowed with twenty-seven acres, valued at 27d. which he claimed by an exchange. All Stoke was six furlongs long, and four broad.

The lord Bainard had also seized on 100 acres, &c. which Ulchetel, a free-man, possessed in king Edward's time, valued at 40s. this he laid claim to by an exchange.

William lord Bainard forfeited his lordship by his rebellion in the reign of Henry I. after this it was in the earls of Clare, probably by the grant of that king to Richard Fitz-Gilbert, ancestor of that family.

Out of these two fees arose two manors, both held of the honor of Clare.

CAVENDISH

CAVENDISH MANOR. Jeffrey Fitz-Piers, earl of Essex, who held considerable possessions in this town, Werham, Wretton, &c. gave on his foundation of the priory of Shouldham, in the time of king John, his interest therein to that convent, to be held (as he did) of the earls of Clare.

In the 32d year of Henry III. the prior had a grant for a market, and a fair, in this town; and in the 3d of Edward I. the jury for the hundred present the prior for breaking down the bridge and disturbing the passage, to the great injury and grievance of the neighbourhood, and travellers; it is likely that the bridge was erected here about this time, and the old ferry being set aside belonging to the prior, from whence a certain toll was paid, and so might be to his disadvantage.

The market before mentioned seems to have been neglected, or disused; Henry VI. in his 5th year, confirmed both that and the fair. There is now no market held, but the fair (chiefly for pedling wares and goods) is kept annually on Dec. 6, and belongs to the lord of the manor, which at the dissolution was granted to sir Edmund Bedingfield, and is now in Edward Nightingale, esq. of Kneeworth, in Cambridgeshire.

Besides the lordship of Cavenham, Robert de Stokes held, in the beginning of the reign of Henry III. the fifth part of a fee of Thomas de Plumberwe, and he of the earl of Clare.

Roger de Stokes was lord in the 3d of Edward I. and presented by the jury to have extended the bounds of his warren; and in the 9th of Edward II. the heirs of John de Stokes, and the prior of Shouldham,

ham, were returned to be lords. The Stokes were also lords of Wirun-Hall, in Wretton.

Ribald, lord of Middleham, in Yorkshire, held under Alan, earl of Richmond, at the survey, the land of four free-men, valued at 12d. who were expelled at the conquest; this belonged to Ribald's manor of Beecham-Well.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and was a single pile of flint, chalk-stone, &c. about fifty-one feet long, and twenty-four broad, covered with tile, with a four-square tower, embattled, and four pinnacles of stone, and a shaft with a weather-cock; this tower falling unexpectedly in 1758, beat down great part of the church. In this tower were two bells. At the west end of the steeple was a decayed little building, probably the station formerly of some hermit.

There was formerly a chancel, but that has been dilapidated many years past. By the grant of Jeffrey Fitz-Piers, earl of Essex, of this church to the priory of Shouldham, it became appropriated to that convent, and was after served by a stipendiary curate. In the 14th of Edward I. John le Rous, or Red, of Wretton, impleaded the prior for the right of patronage, groving that Ulchetel, his ancestor, in the reign of king John, presented to this church, who died rector; but the prior shewing that the said church had been appropriated above twenty years to his priory, his right was confirmed. About the same time there was a rectory house, with thirty acres of glebe; the priory of Shouldham was taxed at ten marks for this rectory.

At

At the dissolution it was granted to sir Edmund Bedingfield, and is now held by Edward Nightingale, esq. who names the curate.

In 1603 it was certified that there were eighty communicants.

William Curteys, chaplain, by his will, in 1417, desires to be buried in the church-yard of All Saints; gives to the fabrick of the chapel 20d. and to that of the church 2s. By this it seems that there were at that time both a church and a chapel, and in the account of lord Bainard's fee, before mentioned, there appears then to have been two churches.

Stoke-Ferry is a handsome, pleasant village, eighty-eight miles from London, and fourteen from Lynn, to each of which a machine passes here twice or thrice a week; it has also a post-office, and contains some neat houses, particularly a seat of sir Clement Trafford, knight, a gentleman very active in the commission of the peace.

Considerable busines is done here, it having the advantage of water, and land-carriage, in an eminent degree.

The Rev. Thomas Ibbot was presented to this chapel, August 11, 1768, by the crown.

SHINGHAM, wrote in Doomsday-book Scingham. Ralph de Tony had the grant of a lordship here on the expulsion of two freemen, and was part of Tony's capital manor of Necton, in South Greenhoe hundred.

The

The ancient family of de Caldicote, lords of Caldicote, who held lands there of the aforesaid Ralph's fee in that town, had an interest herein in the reign of king Stephen, and in the 16th of Edward I. William de Caldicote grants to Thomas, son of Stephen de Ware, several rents, services, and homages, held of him and his ancestors, in Shingham, Caldicote, &c.

In the 10th of Richard II. Richard Holditch held a lordship; and Thomas Fykes, in the 10th of Henry IV. held a court, as sir William Calthorpe did in the 4th of Henry V. but in the 16th of Henry VI. Hugh Methwold conveyed by fine his right to sir William Tuddenham, knt. who being beheaded in 1461, and having no issue, Margaret, his sister and heir, inherited it: the widow of Edmund Bedingfield, esq. and sir Edmund, her grandson, held it anno 13th of Henry VII. In this family it remained till conveyed by sir Henry Bedingfield, bart. to Mr. Samuel Taylor, merchant, of Lynn-Regis, in the reign of George I. Andrew Taylor, esq. his son, died without issue in 1760, and left it to William Folkes, esq. who married his sister and co-heir.

Besides this small fee, or lordship, there was another lordship that extended into this town, that of Well-Hall, in Beechamwell.

In the 10th of Richard I. William de Schengham held considerable lands here and in Well.

About the 2d of Edward I. we find, by an old parchment roll, that this village lay partly in two hundreds, and that there were sixty dwelling-houses (*habitabiles manfiones*) where persons dwelt or inhabited in the hundred of Clackclose, and twenty in that

that of Greenhoe, whereas at this time there is only a farm-house, and a little tenement; the farm-house, being in the south part of the old village, is in the hundred of South Greenhoe, and the church and tenement, in the north part, in the hundred of Clackclose.

The earls of Clare, being the capital lords of this town, had always the patronage of the church; but on the death of Gilbert earl of Clare, who was slain at the battle of Bannock-Burn, in Scotland, June 25, 1314, his great inheritance came to his three sisters and co-heirs; Margaret, married first to Piers de Gaveston, and after to Hugh lord Audley—Eleanor, to Hugh lord de Spencer—and Elizabeth, to William Burgh, earl of Ulster.

In the 20th of Edward III. John de Well, and Edmund his brother, held the 4th part of a fee of the earl of Gloucester, and the earl of the king.

After this it came to the family of the Trusbutts, and Jane, daughter and heir of John Trusbut, brought it by marriage to Thomas Colt, esq. of Grey's Hall, in Cavendish, Suffolk, one of the privy council to Edward IV. in which family it continued until conveyed to the family of the Lovels, of Beechamwell, who sold it in the reign of James I. to Thomas Athow, esq. serjeant at law, of Beechamwell, and was conveyed by William Athow, gent. to sir Simon Taylor, of Lynn, and so came to William Folkes, esq. as above.

Near to this church arises a fine spring, and from hence flows a stream, or rivulet, that separates the hundred of Clackclose, and that of South Greenhoe, and empties itself into the river Wissey; probably, says

says Mr. Parkin, its ancient name was Schin, or Shen; Shengay is a town in Cambridgeshire; Shenfield, in Essex; Shenly, in Hertfordshire, &c.

The church is a very antique building of flint stone, &c. all of an equal height, without any additional chancel, part of the east end of this church being taken in with a screen, serving that purpose, and without any tower, having an arch of stone on the summit of the west gable-end, where formerly hung a bell. It is dedicated to St. Botolph, and is a rectory valued in the king's books at 4l. 6s. 8d. and discharged. There belonged to it twenty acres of glebe, and a house, but that is now destroyed.

Richard Fitz-Gilbert, surnamed Crispin, a kinsman to the Conqueror, ancestor of the noble family of the earls of Clare, having a grant of this lordship on the death of Rainald, son of Ivo, left it to Gilbert, his son, who granted, by deed without date, to the priory of Castle-Acre this church, &c.

In 1603 the rector returned thirty-three communicants, the king being then patron.

In 1763 the Rev. Joseph Forby was presented to this rectory by the crown.

The temporalities of West Dereham abbey in 1428 were 7s. 6d. of Westacre priory 2s. 8d.

STOW-BARDOLPH. On the deposition of Turchetel, who was a great and powerful lord in the reign of the Confessor, William I. granted it, with many other towns of that lord, to Hermerus de Ferrariis. Before the conquest there were three carucates, &c. of which the abbot of Ramsey, and Hermerus,

at the survey, had the soc of them. All this was valued then at 8l. and there was a church endowed with fifty-three acres of land, valued at 3s.

Hermerus had also invaded, or seized on, in Stow, various lands, valued at 20s.

The villages of Wimbottisham and Stow were one leuca long, and half a leuca broad, and paid 16d. gelt to the king, when the hundred paid 20s.

After Hermerus, William de Wormegay, Reginald de Warren, and the lords Bardolph, were lords of this town, which was a part of the barony of Wormegay.

William lord Bardolph had a charter of free-warren granted him in this town, anno 38 of Henry III. then called Le-Estow, and anno 42; but Dugdale says, anno 28, the grant of an annual fair on the day and morrow after the feast of the Holy Trinity. In the 3d of Edward I. the lord had the assize of bread and beer, and the leet of his tenants. In this family, barons of Wormegay, this lordship continued till the attainder of Thomas lord Bardolph, in the reign of Henry IV. who granted it, anno 9, to Thomas Beaufort, his brother, afterwards duke of Exeter, who possessed it in the 5th of Henry VI. and had a ferry here, the bridge not being then erected. Sir William Phelps was the next lord, and was succeeded by the lords viscount Beaumont. William lord Beaumont dying without issue it escheated to the crown, and sir William Arundel, lord Maltrevers, obtained a grant of it on June 5, anno 8 of Henry VIII. but by a fine levied anno 3 and 4 of Philip and Mary, was conveyed to the crown by Henry earl of Arundel; and on the 2d of January, in the said year

year, granted to sir Nicholas Hare, kn. and John Hare, esq. excepting two marshes, or fens, in this town, called Bardolph's fen, and Piers-Dole, or le Fence, they being granted December 22, in the said year, to Edmund Beaupre, esq. of Outwell, rented at 4l. 3s. 4d. per ann. and were parcels of this manor.

This family of Hare derive their pedigree from Jervis, earl of Harcourt, in France, who came into England with the Conqueror, and bore gules, two bars, or—. Sir John Hare, his son, married Ann, daughter of Euflace Crew, baron of de Monte Alto, (Monthaut); he is said to have had a grant to bear, as an augmentation to his arms, the chief indented, or; and his lady's arms were, azure, a lion rampant, argent. The other branch of Jervis, earl of Harcourt's family, from which the Harcourts, formerly barons of Wingham, and the lord viscount Harcourt, of Stanton-Harcourt, in Oxfordshire, are descended, bear it as earl Jervis.

Sir John Hare, son of sir John, married Elizabeth, daughter of sir John de Ashton, and was father of William Hare, esq. who by Ann, daughter of sir Thomas Middleton, of Lancashire, was father of sir John Hare, esq. who by Agnes, his wife, daughter of sir John Shirley, of Wiston, in Sussex, had sir Thomas Hare. Nicholas was his son, by Miss Julian Hussey.

Nicholas married Elizabeth, daughter of sir Thomas de Walsingham; Richard was his son and heir, by Elizabeth, daughter of John Seckford, of Suffolk, esq. and was father of John Hare, esq. who by Jane, daughter of — Nevill, esq. had Thomas Hare, esq. he married Joyce, daughter of John Hyde, esq.

of Northburg; his son, John, by Catherine, daughter of Richard de Anderson, had Nicholas Hare, esq. of Homersfield, in Suffolk, and by Margaret, his wife, had John Hare, esq. and Thomas Hare, L. L. D. chancellor of Norwich, and rector of Massingham Magna, &c.

John married Elizabeth, daughter of —— Fortesque, esq. and had sir Nicholas Hare*, and John John Hare, a mercer, of London; sir Nicholas was speaker of the House of Commons, anno 31 Henry VIII. master of the rolls, and, on the accession of queen Mary to the crown, lord keeper of the great seal; by Catherine, his wife, daughter and coheir of John Basingborn, esq. of Woodhall, in Hertfordshire, was father of Michael Hare, esq. his son and heir, who took to wife Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Hobart, esq. of Hales-Hall, in Norfolk, and afterwards Mary, daughter of sir John Brudenel, of Dean, in Northamptonshire, and died, without issue, October 30, anno 4 and 5 of Philip and Mary.

Robert Hare, esq. second son, was clerk of the pells, some time a member of Caius College, Cambridge. About 1587, at the request and exhortation of Dr. Capcot, master of Corpus Christi College, and vice-chancellor, he collected, in three large volumes, the chancellors and privileges of the university of Cambridge; and a fourth volume, containing the privileges of the town of Cambridge, compiled by him with great labour and expence, and presented by him

to

* Sir Nicholas was twice chosen speaker, also master of the requests, chief justice of Chester, one of the privy council to queen Mary; in 1553 he purchased the liberty, or franchise of the hundred of Clackclose, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

to the University, to be carefully preserved in their public chest, with a copy thereof for the use of the vice chancellor, and another for the register, and afterwards conferred the like favour upon Oxford, to which university he bore no relation, and died, without issue, November 2, 1611.

The eldest branch of this family being thus extinct, we return to John Hare, citizen and mercer, of London, brother to sir Nicholas, who by Dorothy, his wife, had eight sons; Nicholas, Ralph, Richard, Rowland, Edmund, Hugh, Thomas, and John.

Nicholas, the eldest, was a bencher of the Inner Temple, and in 1589 built Stow-Hall, the manor house, at the expence of 40,000l. also a spacious dormitory adjoining to the chancel of Stow church, for depositing the remains of himself and family, and died in 1591, without issue, leaving his estate to his brother Ralph, who also died, without issue, in 1601, and was succeeded by Richard, who married Elizabeth, daughter of John Barnes; she re-married to George Rotherham, esq. and after to sir George Perient, and died December 2, 1655, aged 90, having two sons by Richard, her first husband, Ralph, and Richard.

Rowland, fourth son of John Hare, and Edmund, the fifth son, died without issue. Hugh, the sixth son, was a bencher of the Inner Temple, and master of the court of wards, and dying without issue, left by his will, dated Dec. 25, 1619, above 99,400l. to be equally divided between his two nephews, John Hare, grandson of his brother Richard, and Hugh Hare, son of his brother John, &c. which John married first, Lucy, daughter of —— Barlow, esq. and to his second wife, Margaret, daughter of John

Crouch, esq. and by her left two sons, Nicholas, and Hugh; Nicholas died without issue, and Hugh was created, August 3, 1625, lord Coleraine in Ireland, from whom, by Lucy, his wife, daughter of the lord Montague, descended the lords Coleraine, and the Hares, of Docking, in this county.

Ralph Hare, esq. eldest son of Richard, son of John Hare, esq. abovementioned, was created knight of the bath at the coronation of James I. and married to his first wife, Mary, daughter of sir Edward Holmden, knt. alderman of London, by whom he had a son, John; his second wife was Ann, daughter of John Crouch, of Cornbury, in Hertfordshire, esq. by whom he had no issue; she survived him, and re-married Edmund lord Montague, of Broughton. Sir Ralph was remarkable for his extensive charity to the poor; in 1603 he erected six alm-houses at Stow, for six poor persons born in the parish, or had resided there for ten years, and endowed them with lands for ever. In his life-time he gave by deed to St. John's College, in Cambridge, dated April 30, 1623, the rectory and glebe lands of the impropriate rectory of Marham, in this hundred, with the advowson of the vicarage, to be employed in erecting a library, and after in exhibitions for thirty poor scholars in that college, for ever; and dying in August, 1623, was succeeded by his only son, John Hare, who was knighted in his father's life-time, December 4, 1617, at Newmarket; he married Elizabeth, only daughter of Thomas lord Coventry, lord keeper of the great seal, by whom he had five sons, and seven daughters; Ralph, the eldest; John, of Broomthorpe, in Gallow hundred; Nicholas, of Hercham, in Shropshire, &c.

Ralph

Ralph, the eldest son, was created baronet July 23. 1641; by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter and co-heir of sir Robert Crane, bart. of Chilton, in Suffolk, was father of sir Thomas Hare, his successor; his second wife was Vere, sister to Horatio lord viscount Townshend; and his third was Elizabeth, daughter of —— Chapinan, esq. he was knight of the shire in parliament, burgess for Lynn, and died in 1671.

Sir Thomas Hare, bart. his son and heir, married Elizabeth, sister of sir Robert Dashwood, bart. of Northbrook, in Oxfordshire, by whom he had four sons, sir Ralph, sir Thomas, sir George, and Richard, who died young; also six daughters; Elizabeth, married to sir Thomas Robinson, bart. and Mary, to Thomas Leich, of London, Turkey merchant; the others died single; sir Thomas was knight of the shire in parliament, and died in 1693.

Sir Ralph, the eldest son, by Susan, his wife, daughter and co-heir of Walter Norborne, esq. of Calne, in Wiltshire, had no issue, and dying in 1732, was succeeded by his brother sir Thomas*, who married Rosamond, daughter of Charles Newby, esq. of Hooton-Roberts, in Yorkshire, by whom he had two daughters and co-heirs; Elizabeth, married to the Rev. Dr. Thomas Moore, and Mary, to sir Thomas Harris, knt. of Finchley, in Middlesex; he died in 1759, and sir George Hare, bart. his brother, and successor, died unmarried.

Dr. Moore died in 1779, without issue, and, we believe, sir Thomas Harris has no children living.

O 4

Stow-hall

* Sir Thomas died February 21, 1760; and sir George on March 18, 1764; both buried here.

Stow-hall is a stately mansion, with agreeable gardens, and an extensive park adjoining. It is at this time (1779) in a very ruinous condition, and must excite in the breast of the beholder a kind of sympathy with the fatality of human grandeur. What would have been the feelings of the honourable baronets who presided here with munificence and splendor, had they had a preceadanous idea of its fate? A noble house, built so late as 1589, at the enormous expence of 40,000l. and endowed with an estate of three or four thousand a year, to fall into ruins in the space of a very few years, bespeaks a parsimonious neglect. The more than ordinary beauty of its situation, and apparent magnificence, renders it an eligible seat.

The turnpike road from Cambridge, thirty-eight miles, and Downham, three, to Lynn-Regis, nine, runs through the village of Stow-Bardolph, which stands on an eminence, commanding a prospect across Marshland.

There is a bridge about two miles from the town, over the river Ouse, near to which is a fair kept every year, on the Saturday before Trinity Sunday, and is considerable for the sale of horses, cows, &c. and in the fens is a good decoy belonging to the lord. We find that the new podike in the fens was made anno 1 Henry VI. in the lands of the duke of Exeter, then lord of Stow-Bardolph.

The church of Stow-Bardolph is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and consists of a nave and a chancel, and a broad, but low, four-square tower, built of carr and ragg-stone, with buttresses of brick, in which hang five large tuneable bells. The nave is in length about forty-seven feet, and in breadth about twenty-four; the roof is arched, or cambered, plastered, and

and covered with reed. At the west end is a neat stone font, with a cover of oak, carved and painted, on which is a shield, with the arms of Hare, and this date, 1625; on the summit is a pelican vulned.

On the pavement here lies an old stone, with a shield worn out, and an inscription scarce legible,—
To Thomas Cobb, second son of Mr. Martin Cobb, of Snettisham, who died Nov. 30, 1582.

On a grave-stone adjoining, a shield.—*To Samuel Renault, steward to the honourable sir Ralph Hare, the father, and to sir Thomas Hare, the son, baronets, lies here interred, who departed this life the 19th day of August, 1678.*

On another stone adjoining.—*Here lyeth the body of Mr. John West, who was twenty years steward to the honourable sir Ralph Hare, baronet, who departed this life the 26th day of March, 1727, aged 62 years.*

At the west end of the church is a large gallery, supported by six wooden pillars of the ionic order. The chancel is in length about thirty feet, and in breadth about sixteen; it is cambered, plastered, and covered with tile. The altar is railed in, and has an ascent of three steps of free-stone, with which the altar space is paved, except the passage as you enter leading to it, which is of oak vineered. The altar is of Derbyshire grey marble, with a slab of the same, and was part of the old altar monument of sir Ralph Hare, knight of the bath, which was taken down on the erecting that of sir Thomas Hare, bart. On the body of it are two ovals; in one a dove is painted; in the other I. H. S. and the walls on the north and south sides of the altar, within the rails, are neatly wainscotted and painted. The whole

whole altar-piece is ornamented with four columns of the dorick order, fluted, painted blue, and veined with gold, supporting an entablature of the same.

In the east window of the chancel there was lately a shield,—Pigot impaling Bernham.

Margaret Pigot was prioress of Carrowe, and that convent held the rectory.

This window being new glazed when the altar-piece was erected, these arms are now lost.

Against the north wall of this chancel were lately several banners, before the beautifying of it, with the arms of Hare, Bessingbourne, quarterly.

On a stone fixed in the north wall,—*Margaret, the wife of Walter Drury, vicar of this parish, died December 19, 1681, aged 22 years.*

On the north side of this chancel is a chapel, or burial place for the family of Hare, built of brick, embattled with copings of free-stone, in length about thirty-six feet, and sixteen in breadth, covered with lead; at the west end are the arms of Hare, with the crest, a demy lion, and these letters, I. H. M. L. Anno Domini 1624.

On a little white marble stone on the pavement at the east end is Hare impaling Chapman.—*John Posthumous Hare, son to the honourable sir Ralph Hare, and Elizabeth, his wife, 1672.*

On a grave-stone, with the arms of Hare, this round the verge;—*Here lyeth the body of the honourable sir*

sir Ralph Hare, bart. he departed this life the last of February, 1671.

At the foot of this another, with the arms of Hare and Chapman impaled, and round the verge,—*Elizabeth, the last wife of sir Ralph Hare, bart. liv'd his widow above 13 years, and died March 17, 1683.*

Against the south-wall is a neat altar monument of veined marble, with a grey marble slab, on which stand two veined pillars of the Corinthian order, with their capitals gilt with gold, supporting an entablature of the same, and gilt, on which is the shield of Hare between two pyramids of marble, and on the wall a piece of marble ornamented with foliages, festoons, death's heads, and hour glasses gilt with gold, this epitaph in letters of gold,—*In Obitum præstantissimi viri Radulphi Hare, Armigeri, &c.*

On the north side, on a white marble stone, and veined, lies the statue of sir Thomas Hare, bart, in full proportion, cumbent on his right side, in the habit of a Roman, his arm resting on a cushion of alabaster, and is a curious and just piece of statuary; on it are the arms of Hare, with the distinction as a baronet, and a cherub on each side,—*In memory of sir Thomas Hare, bart. who departed this life the 1st day of January, 1693, aged 35 years, and left a lady, and four sons and five daughters.*

Near to this is a mural monument of white marble; on the summit the arms of Hare; on the base a cherub gilt with gold, and on a black marble in the centre, in letters of gold,—*Memoriæ Sacrum Hugonis Hare, Armig. interioris templi socii, qui Johannem Hare, milit. filium Radulphi Hare, Mil. Balnei, filiu. Richardi Hare, fratri ejusdem Hugonis et Hugone, fili.*

um

um Jehan. Hare, armig'ri, alterius fratriis ipsius Hugo-nis amplissimarum facultatum hæredes scripsit, obit. calen. Feb. 4to. 1619.

*Death, time, and foul oblivion, doth deface
The goodliest things, that now the world doth grace;
Death ends our glory, time makes death forgot,
Oblivion all devours, as they were not.*

Adjoining is a white marble monument, with two pillars of the same, veined, of the Corinthian order, their capitals gilt, and supporting an entablature of the same, whereon is the shield of Hare, and on each side a pyramid of marble, and on a wall-piece of black marble, in letters of gold, a latin inscription—*To Nicholaus, son of Radulphus Hares.*

The church was a rectory endowed with fifty-three acres of land at the survey, and was given by Reginald de Warren, second son of the second earl of Warren, and Alice, his wife, to the priory of Carrowe; she was daughter and heir of William de Wormegay, lord of Wormegay.

In 1300 the vicar was presented, for the first time, by the prioress and convent of Carrowe.

On the dissolution of religious houses Henry VIII. by letters patent, dated 2d of November, in the 30th year of his reign, granted to sir John Shelton, kn. of Shelton, in Depwade hundred, this rectory, and the advowson of the vicarage; and on the 26th of September, in the 1st of Edward VI. sir John alienated it to John Hare, of London, mercer; in which family it has ever since remained.

November

November 28, 1764, the Rev. Thomas Moore, D. D. as patron in right of his wife, Elizabeth Hare, presented himself to this vicarage.

This vicarage is valued in the king's books at 6l. 6s. 8d. clear value 24l. per ann. and so is discharged of first fruits and tenths.

November 13, 1769, the vicarage of Stow-Bardolph was consolidated with the rectory of Wimbotisham.

The spiritualities of the priorels, &c. of Carrowe, here, were valued in 1428 at twelve marks. Their temporalities, &c. at 20s.

In 1622 sir Ralph Hare, knight of the Bath, gave lands in Wiggenhall, called John's Lede, and Walsingham's Dole, to Thomas Fanshaw, esq. &c. feoffees &c. the profits to be for ever bestowed so as six poor inhabitants dwelling in Stow, in the alms houses built by him, may have one shilling weekly given to each of them, every Sunday, in the parish church of Stow, immediately after morning service; the overplus of the said profits (if there be any) to be bestowed in garments for the said poor, yearly, at the feast of the nativity of our blessed Lord.

In this town, somewhat south of the church, and near to the high road, stands an ancient pile of flint and brick, &c. pointing east and west, and has been a chapel, or hermitage; it is called at this day the pool-house, and is now converted to a little farmhouse belonging to sir Thomas Hare; here seems to have been a gild belonging to it in 1467, called the gild of St. Botolph, of Stow chapel, and perhaps the chapel was dedicated to St. Botolph.

STRADSET,

STRADSET, STRADESET, OR STRANGESET, wrote in Doomsday-book Strateseta. This town stands in a great valley, which Strath is said to signify, and several places in Scotland take their names from it, as Strathern, Strathnavern, &c. and in England, Stradshall, Stradbrook, in Suffolk, &c. At the survey Fulbert held two carucates of land of Hermerus de Ferrariis, who had a grant of this town on the expulsion of Suartine, a free-man, lord in the time of the Confessor; a church endowed with thirty acres, &c. In the said town were thirteen free-men, who were deposed, and had two hundred and ten acres, and a church with thirty acres, &c. which were delivered to Hermerus for one carucate, to make up one manor. The whole was valued at 4l. 15s. the protection of two of these free-men was, before this, in the lord Bainard, his predecessor. The whole was seven furlongs long, and four broad, and paid 8d. to a 20s. gelt.

Fulbert, who held this lordship of Hermerus at the survey, was probably ancestor of the ancient family of de Stradefeth, or Stradset, who are mentioned so early as in the reign of king Stephen.

Roger de Stradset held one knight's fee when an aid was granted on the marriage of Henry III's. daughter to the emperor; and in the 20th of Edward III. Nicholas de Stradset was a minor in the ward of John lord Bardolph, being part of his barony; he dying without issue, Elizabeth, his sister and heir, married John Hawkins, esq. serjeant at arms to Edward III. who was lord in the 47th of that king. On his decease it came to their two daughters and co-heirs, Alice, married to sir Ralph Pooley, and Margery, to —— Neffield, esq. In the 9th of Henry VI. George Neffield, esq. held a moiety of this

this manor, and Rose, daughter of Alice, by sir Ralph Pooley, was his cousin and heir; she was then married to Bartholomew Pigott, esq. lord of Framlingham-Pigott, in the hundred of Henstead, and dying in the 11th of Henry VI. left Thomas, her son and heir, aged 26 years; this Thomas removed from Framlingham-Pigott, and settled here in 1437. Francis Pigott, esq. conveyed it to John Goldsmith, esq. (son of John Goldsmith, of Wilby, in Suffolk) who had a son, John, and a daughter, Elizabeth, married to Thomas Thurston, younger son of Nathaniel Thurston, esq. of Hoxne, in Suffolk. John being a lunatick, the estate was in his sister Elizabeth, whose daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married Robert Buxton, esq. of South Elmham, in Suffolk, inherited it on the death of her mother, in 1728, which Elizabeth Buxton dying in 1729, it came to her daughter and heir, Elizabeth, who married _____ Searle, esq. and dying under age, without issue, _____ Goldsmith, gent. succeeded as heir to this lordship, and conveyed it, in 1747, to Philip Case, esq. of Lynn, who now possesses it.

On the screen of the hall, or manor-house, are the arms of Pigott, and on the ridge tiles were pigs and goats, as a rebus to the name.

PARADISE MANOR. This seems to be made up of certain lands, &c. taken out of the lordship of Stradset, by Alice, daughter and co-heir of John Hawkins, esq. before-mentioned, and given to her daughters, Elizabeth and Emma, by Thomas Lathe, esq. Elizabeth was married to John Curteys, and Emma, to John Squirry, in the reign of Henry VI. After this, Elizabeth married, to her second husband, Thomas Steward, who was buried in the church of Stradset. From this Thomas descended Francis Steward,

Steward, gent. whose daughter and heir dying under age, possessed of the manor of Paradise, in Stradset, Fincham, and Crimplesham; and in the 5th of Edward VI. Lawrence Steward, brother to her father, was her heir, and had livery of it.

Mr. Benn lately (as 'tis said) possessed it, and his daughter, married to _____ Randall, inherited it, but most of the land, &c. are sold from it.

DEREHAM ABBEY MANOR. Sir Osbert de Stradset gave in the 34th year of the reign of Henry III. the patronage of the church of Stradset, with a manor thereto appertaining, to the abbey. It continued here till the dissolution, when, with the advowson of the vicarage, it was granted, November 17, in the 38th of Henry VIII. to James Hawe, and Henry Hawe, to be held in capite, though some lands in the tenure of John Dereham, belonging formerly to the said abbey, were granted on July 23, in the 2d of Queen Mary, to Thomas Reeve, and Giles Ifham. Afterwards it came to the Stewards, and Francis Steward presented to the vicarage in 1556; in 1579 Thomas Parlet. In this family it continued till a daughter and heir of Parlet brought it by marriage to Mr. Read, and his daughter to Edmund Saffery, of Downham, gent. the present possessor.

The leet was in the abbey of Ramsey, and in the late sir George Hare, bart. the fee 16d.

The temporalities of Dereham abbey, with those of the priory of Winwaloy, were taxed at 9s. 8d. in 1428, and the spiritualities at nine marks.—The temporalities of Shouldham priory at 8s. 4d.

In

In the 3d and 4th of Philip and Mary sir John Perrot had lands here, and in Barton, given him July 27, lately belonging to the nunnery of Blackburgh, in Freebridge-Lynn.

At a little hill, on the common of this town, by the road from Norwich, Watton, Swaffham, &c. to Downham, called Clackclose-hill, was the sherriffs turn, or hundred court kept, as may be seen in the account of the said hundred.

The church of Stradset is dedicated to St. Mary, and is an ancient single fabrick of flint and boulder, or carr-stone, having a body in length about sixty feet, and in breadth about nineteen, covered with reed; at the west end is a four-square tower, with quoins and embattlements of free-stone, wherein hang three bells.

About the middle of the pavement of the church lies a very large grey marble grave-stone, whereon has been a cross florall; and at the foot of it a lion couchant of bras, near the rim, between two fillets of the same metal, was the inscription, all which is now reaved; by the incision in the stone, made to receive the bras letters, it appears to be in old French, and Saxon characters, viz.

ICI. GIST. DAME. EMMA. DE. MOV-
NAVT. FEMME. DE. DEVX. BARONS.
DIEV. PAR. SA. PITIE. AVEZ. MERCI.
DE. SA. AMA.

This Emma married, first, Richard Fitz-John, a baron, patron of Shouldham priory, who died anno 25 Edward I. and after to Roger de Monte-Alto, a baron, lord of Castle-Rising. In the 26th of that

king she held in dower the manor, chace, and park of Whaddon, the manors of Ailsbury, Burton, and Quarndon, in Bucks, the manor of Schalford, and the park of Alford, in Surry, &c.

In the south window, at the end of the nave, has been the effigies of St. John the Baptist, the lower part of it still remaining; at the bottom of the window, - - - - - *S'ci Joh'is bapt'e q'i ista' feneſtra fieri fecerunt.* At this window has been an altar; the place for the holy water is still to be seen, and a niche in the wall for a statue: here the priests belonging to the guild of St. John Baptist, in this church, officiated. The window opposite, on the north side, seems to have a large cinquefoil, or, in a shield, and the windows of the chancel are beautified with the same bearing, most likely in honour of the lords Bardolph, the capital lords, who bore the same. Nothing was more practised in times of popery than the beautifying and illuminating windows, especially those where any altar was annexed; thus we find that Mary de Valentia, countess of Pembroke, glazed the seventh window in the church of the grey friars at London, she caused it to be made and painted at her own expence, to the ancient altar under it. The breadth of the chancel is equal to that of the nave, and the length is about twenty-six feet.

In the east window are the arms of the see of Ely, the arms of the East Angles, or Bury abbey, and the arms of Dereham abbey.

In the north window is a serpent twisting itself about the feet of a dove, and over it—*Ut serpens, ut columba.*

On the pavement on the north side of the communion table lies a black marble,—*M. S. Johan. Scott, A. M. pastoris*

pastoris fidissimi, prudentissimiq; et per annos 43 hujus ecclesiae vicarii, qui tandem exuto corpore, senex et cælebs hic requiescit in Domino. obt. Octob. 24, an. Sal. 1727, ætat. suæ 67.

Against the south wall is an achievement.—Wood impaling on the dexter side, Chauncy; and on the sinister side, Goldsmith, it being the shield of a woman impaled between her two husbands. Henry Chauncy, of Yardleybury, in Hertfordshire, afterwards sir Henry, married to his second wife, Elizabeth, relict of John Goldsmith, of Stradset, in Norfolk, esq. one of the co-heirs of Gregory Wood, of Risby, in Suffolk, gent. by whom he had no issue; she was cut off by the spotted fever at London, August 14, 1677, and here buried.

On the pavement adjoining lies a black marble; on the summit are the arms of Goldsmith, and—*John Gouldsmith, esq. (son of John Gouldsmith, late of Wilby, in the county of Suffolk) was buried the 23d of January, 1669, aged 58 years; also here resteth the body of Elizabeth, the relict of the aforesaid John, who departed this life August 14, 1677.*

Against the north wall is also an achievement,—Thurston impaling Gouldsmith;—and on a black marble on the pavement,—*Here lyeth Thomas Thurston, the fourth son of Nathaniel Thurston, of Hoxton, in the county of Suffolk, esq. who married Elizabeth, the second daughter of John Gouldsmith, of Stradset, in the county of Norfolk, esq. by whom he had three children; he died October 30, 1683, &c.*

On the said pavement lies a grey marble, having the portraiture of a man in compleat armour, his hands conjoined, and a lion couchant at his feet, in

brass, and on a plate,—*Hic jacet Thomas Lathe, armig.* qui obiit in vigil. Sci Bartholomei, Apli An. Dni. M. CCCDXVIII. cui q; aie p'p'tiet. Deus, Amen;*—there have been three brass shields belonging to this stone, but only one remaining, with the arms of France and England, quarterly.

This church was given in the beginning of the reign of Henry III. to the abbey of West Dereham, by sir Osbert de Stradset, and soon after, in the said reign, it was appropriated to the abbey, and a vicar endowed; the abbot had a manse with thirty acres of land, valued at six marks; the vicar had a manse with fifty-four acres of land, and two of meadow, which the abbot detained, and kept to himself.

In 1314 the vicar was presented by the abbot, &c. of West Dereham; and this vicarage in 1520 was then valued at 40s.

In 1579 Thomas Parlet, of Downham Market, presented.

In 1603 the vicar observes, that there were sixty communicants here.

In 1727, and 1745, Mr. Edm. Saffery, of Downham, was patron; and in 1774 the Rev. Thorogood Upwood was presented to this vicarage by Philip Case, esq. lord, who has served the office of mayor of Lynn-Regis twice, and has a seat here.

This

* This Thomas Lathe was a great favourite of Henry IV. who gave him land, houses, &c. at Lynn, that were forfeited, and esquire probably of the king's body.

This vicarage is valued in the king's books at 3l. 6s. 8d. and being in clear value 25l. per ann. is discharged of tenths and first fruits.

Several of the family of Steward, Pigott, and Thurston, lie buried here; also, John Goldsmith, esq. Jan. 22, 1612; and Elizabeth, wife of Henry Chauncey, esq. Aug. 18, 1677.

TOTTENHILL was partly, as we imagine, an hamlet to Westbridge, and the manor of the lord Bainard, of Carboisthorpe, or Shouldham-Thorpe, extended into it; this came afterwards to the earls of Clare, and Jeffrey Fitz-Piers, earl of Essex, gave it to his priory of Shouldham. On the dissolution it was granted to Mildmay, then conveyed to judge Gawdy, so to the earl of Warwick.

But the principal part of this hamlet belonging to Westbridge, and there accounted for, was held by Hermerus de Ferrariis, on the expulsion of Turchetel, and being part of the barony of Wormegay, was held after of the lord Bardolph.

On the rebellion of the lord Bardolph it came to the crown, and was granted by Henry IV. to Thomas Beaufort, his brother, who was afterwards duke of Exeter, so to William lord viscount Beaumont, and after his death was in the crown, with Wormegay; and Edward VI. in his first year, granted it to John duke of Northumberland, who had licence in the 6th of the said king, to convey it to Thomas Mildmay, esq. and his son, sir Thomas, sold it, in the 23d of Elizabeth, to judge Gawdy, and so descended to the earl of Warwick, and was after conveyed to Gregory Gawsell, esq. of Watlington, from whom it came to

his niece, Susan, wife of sir John Davis, of Beer-Court, in Berkshire. Gregory Davis, esq. her son, inherited it, and dying in 1706, left two sons, Gregory, who died a minor in 1710, and John Davis, esq. of Watlington, lately deceased, lord.

The inhabitants of this hamlet belonging to the parish of Westbridge, go to that church. In the beginning of the reign of king Edward III. Gilbert de Hethill, rector of Westbridge, is called also Parsons Tottenhull, and in the escheat roll, anno 9, appears to have given to the prior of Wormegay forty acres of land, five of meadow, and 5s rent per annum in Fordham, Hithe, and Riston, and at the same time he held also two carucates of land here of the lord Bardolph, by the fourth part of a fee.

Tot, or Tut, is the name of a rivulet, and gives name to many places; thus, Tottenhill, and Tutbury, in Staffordshire; Tutwell, in Warwickshire; Tottington, in Norfolk; Tottenham, in Middlesex, &c.—*Vide* Mr. Parkin, the *water-etymologist*.

The church of Tottenhill stands on a small hill next an extensive common, and near to the turnpike road leading from London to Lynn.

The Rev. William Winder was licenced to this curacy, July 12, 1771.

UPWELL and OUTWELL. The greater part of these towns, with their lands, lie in the Isle of Ely in Cambridgeshire, but as the churches of both stand in Norfolk, we shall offer some particulars relating thereto. In the book of Doomsday, Outwell in Norfolk, belonged to the abbey of Ramsey, is said to have sixteen borderers there, with lands, valued at

5s.

5s. per ann. The capital manor of these towns belonged to that abbey, and lay in Upwell, and extended into Outwell, called Wella*, as having their scite on a river; Ailwin, a Saxon, duke of the East Angles, on his foundation of the said abbey in 969, granted it to that house; there belonged also to it twenty fishermen, with their manses and tofts, who were to find it with 60,000 eels yearly, &c. all which was confirmed by the Conqueror.

In the 4th of king John, Upwell was a town of such account, that it appears, from the pipe rolls, that the abbot had, as lord of it, a market.

In the 20th of Edward I. it was agreed between the bishop of Ely, and the abbot of Ramsey, that the leet of Well should for the future be kept by the bailiff of the abbot, in the presence of the bishop's bailiff, if he so thought fit, as it used to be peacefully kept till the 14th of Henry III. and that the bishop should have his court of his tenants without the hundred of Clackclose of all pleas belonging to a court baron.

Henry VI. granted to the bishop of Ely, and the abbot of Ramsey, one common and open market weekly, and a fair yearly, on St. Peter and St. Paul's day, at Upwell, with all the profits, dated the 5th of April, anno 1, at Lincoln; and in 1428 the temporalities of this abbey, in Upwell and Outwell, were valued at 19l. 13s. 4d. and their spiritualities here, and Modney priory, in Hilgay, at 2l. On its dissolution it was granted on the 20th of July, in the 38th of Henry VIII. to Edmund Beaupre, of Beaupre-Hall, in Outwell, on the payment of a fee farm

* Outwell is wrote in Doomsday-book Utuella.

rent of 1l. 9s. 4d. per ann. which payment was made in the first of queen Mary, on the 16th of June; and by Dorothy, daughter and co-heir of the said Edmund, it came by marriage to sir Robert Bell.

BISHOP OF ELY'S MANOR. That there was a lordship in Well belonging to the church of Ely before the conquest, appears from ancient records, and seems to be part of the endowment of Ethelwold bishop of Winchester, on the founding the Benedictine monastery therein, who purchased, about the 10th year of king Edgar, the whole Isle of Ely free from all royal subjection, and gave it to that church, but on the erection of the see of Ely it became part of the bishop's endowment. In the reign of Edward I. the bishop's manor here was in Cambridgeshire, or Isle of Ely, in the hundred of Wichford, but extended into Norfolk, several tenants being in that county, and the hundred of Clackclose; the bishop had foldage of his free tenants, waif and stray, several fisheries, and all royal fisheries in the bishop's liberty belonged to him, giving 4d. to the finder, and the patronage of the church of St. Clement, in Outwell, was in that see; the demesne was only eight acres, called Hall-Croft. The lord may have a wind or a water-mill, but his tenants are not obliged to grind there: sir Stephen de Marisco, knt. the prior of Mirmound, the prior of Mulycourt, the canons of Thrilling, and John de Walpole, held lands, &c. here.

In an account of Edward Pierpoint, receiver-general of the revenues of this see, about the 3d and 4th of Philip and Mary, the bishop's revenues in Well amounted to 2l. 5s. 2d. After this, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, it was vested in the crown.

There

There being anciently several disputes and contests between the bishops of Ely, and the abbots of Ramsey, there were boundaries settled to their mutual satisfaction, which are still upon record.

BRAUPRE-HALL MANOR. The scite of this manor is in Outwell, and in the county of Norfolk, and takes its name Beau-pre, or de Bello Prato, from the fine meadows that surround it.

The first lord of this manor that we meet with on record, is sir Thomas de St. Omer, knt. in an old deed, about the end of the reign of Henry III. (but without date) in the court of the exchequer. In a bag of deeds of the county of Norfolk it is recited, that whereas there had been difference between the prior of Lewis, and sir Thomas, knight of St. Omer, Symon le Curteis, and other parceners in Upwell marsh, in Norfolk, in which the prior claimed common, and the others denied him; by this deed it was agreed, that the prior should have right of common for all his own cattle belonging to his manor of West Walton, freely, but neither the prior, his tenants, or villains, &c. should bring cattle out of his other manors to feed there, and that the prior should be helping to them to maintain the liberty of common according to the quantity of their lands in Upwell.

This family of St. Omer is on the roll amongst those persons of note and eminence who came over with William the Conqueror. Hugh de St. Omer is mentioned as a baron of the realm by Mat. Paris, and no doubt was feated here nigh the time of the Conquest; and mention is made by Sir Henry Spelman of John de St. Omer, of Well, who wrote an answer to a monk of Peterborough, who in the reign king John wrote a lampoon in Latin against the country

country people of Norfolk, and sir John de St. Omer was keeper of the wardrobe to Henry III. anno 33.

In the 4th of Edward I. 1276, the prior of Municourt leased lands to sir William de St. Omer. In 1274 he, with Thomas de St. Omer, and William de Rivers, had the king's letters of protection, as proxies for him, then going to the council at Lyons; and in 1275, sir Thomas was, with Simon de Grey, justice itinerant in Cambridgeshire. Sir William de St. Omer lived at Well in the 42d, and in the 53d of Henry III. was judge of the assize at Cambridge, - - - - and living anno 14th Edward I.

Sir Thomas de St. Omer was his son, and had large possessions left him by his father, being lord of Brundall, Mulbarton, &c. in Norfolk.

In a north window of Mulbarton was to be seen, painted in the glass, an armed knight kneeling; behind him his lady kneeling, and behind her a young lady, her daughter, kneeling. On his armour, and over his head, were his arms, and under them, this French legend—*Priez pour les almes de Mounseur Thomas Seutomeris et Dame Petrinelle sa femme, qui fit faire ceste fenestre.* His lady, Petronilla, was the daughter of Nicholas de Malmains†; this is to represent that sir Thomas was living in the reign of Edward III.

It appears that sir Thomas aforesaid, son of sir William, left no issue male, and that this lordship became

† A daughter and co-heiress of this sir Thomas, and Petronilla his wife, (heiress of Malmains) Alice, was married to sir William Hoo; Elizabeth was another daughter and co-heir, by a 2d wife of sir Thomas.---Blom. Hist. Norf. v. 2. p. 51.

became the inheritance of Christian, daughter and heir of sir Thomas St. Omer, who lived in the reign of Edward I. she married John, son of Gilbert de Beaupre, whose ancestors had considerable possessions in these townships. This John Fitz Gilbert appears, by ancient deeds, to have inherited also from them a manor in Well; to this John, Nicholas Durdant, rector of Litcham, in Norfolk, for a certain sum of money, granted several villains, *cum tota sequela*, and the lands they held of him by deed without date; and to the said John de Beaupre, Henry de Hale, clerk, granted the advowson of the priory of St. Mary de Mulicourt, by deed dated at Outwell, on Thursday after the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, in 1313, soon after which the said John Fitz Gilbert de Beaupre died.

Richard de Beaupre, son and heir of this John, was lord, and married Catherine, daughter of Osbert Mundeford, Esq.

Sir Thomas de Beaupre was his son and heir, who married Joan, daughter of Thomas Holbech, esq. he lived in the reign of Edward III. his arms were to be seen in the east window of the chancel of Outwell.

Nicholas was his son and heir, who married Margaret, daughter of Richard Holditch, esq. of Dillington, in South Greenhoe; this Nicholas died in 1404, and his body was buried in the chapel of St. Mary, in Outwell; he gave 11s. to the repair of the church.

This Nicholas had a son of his own name, who by his will, dated 24th of September, 1428, ordains his trustees in the manor of Weafenham, &c. to keep

keep the same for the raising of two hundred marks to fulfil his last will, to be disposed of in masses, &c for his soul, and those of his ancestors; bequeaths vestments to the value of 20l. to the church of Outwell; to the prioress of Blackberge 13s. 4d per ann. out of his lands, &c. in South Lenn; xs. to be given amongst the poor of Outwell; to Elizabeth, his daughter, 10 marks; 10l. to be disposed of for his burial; to the guild of Corpus Christi 40d. to that of St. Mary 6s. 8d. to that of St. Christopher, and St. John, in Outwell, 40d. to be equally divided; to Margaret, his son Thomas's wife, 40s. for her own use; to Alice, wife of Martin Capper, 13s. 4d. to each of his executors 40s. and to the monks of Mulicourt 20s. and to be buried in the church of Outwell, by Margaret his late wife; and proved by his son Thomas, the 9th of March, 1429.
Regist. Surflete, pt. 2, fol. 52.

Thomas de Beaupre was his son and heir, who married Margaret, daughter of John Meers, esq. of Lincolnshire. This family had also the manors of Frevyles and Southall, in Wellingham, in Launditch hundred.

Thomas de Beaupre, esq. was his son and heir, who in 1459, his father being then alive, married Margaret, daughter of Robert Ashefield, esq. of Stow-Langtoft St. George, in Suffolk.

Nicholas de Beaupre, esq. was his son and heir, who in 1493 married Margaret, daughter and co-heir of Thomas Fodringay, esq. as will appear from the following curious covenant:

“ This indenture made the 14th day of November, the 7th year of the reigne of king Harry the VII,

“ VII. betwix sir Robert Radclyff and dame Katharine his wife, on the oon party, and Nicholas Beaupre on the other party, witnesfeth that whereas the said sir Robert and dame Katherine, have in their kepyng and governaunce oon Margaret Fodringghey, oon of the daughters and heyres of Thomas Fodryngghey, late of Brockley, in Suffolk, gentilman, the said Nicholas, before the feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist next comyng, by the assent, help and favor of the said sir Robert and dame Katherine, and for the faithfull love, that the said Nicholas hath long time had to the said Margaret, shall by the grace of God, marry and take to wif the said Margaret, and espowfells between them shall be solemmynised, for the which, &c. the said Nicholas shall be bound; and cause also with him, Thomas Beaupre, his father to be bound, &c. to the said sir Robert and Katherine, &c. in the sum of xii. payable, &c. and the same sir Robert and Katherine, &c. graunteth by these presents to delyver the said Margaret, to the said Nicholas, unassured to any person, &c.”

This Nicholas died in 1513, and was buried in the chapel of St. Mary, in the church of Outwell, amongst his ancestors; and Margaret, his wife, died the 20th of February, in the 6th year of Henry VIII. seised of Brockley, in Suffolk, and Edmund was their son and heir, which Edmund married Margery, daughter of sir John Wiseman, of Great Thornham, in Suffolk, by whom he had four daughters. His second wife was Katherine, daughter of Philip Bedingfield, esq. This Edmund died the 14th of February, 1567; and by the marriage (as it is said) of Dorothy, another daughter and co-heir, to sir

Robert

Robert Bell, this manor of Beaupre was vested in that family October 1559.

Sir Robert Bell was speaker of the House of Commons, anno 14th Elizabeth, chief baron of the exchequer, and died of the pestilential vapour, at Oxford, at the assizes there in 1577, which destroyed also the high-sheriff, most of the grand jury, and above three hundred more, and his widow was married to sir John Peyton, lord lieutenant of the tower of London.

In this family the manor of Beaupre continued, 'till the death of Beaupre Bell, esq. in 17 --, who dying unmarried, gave it by will to his youngest sister, Elizabeth, who married William Greaves, B. B. esq. of Fulbourne, in Cambridgeshire, who, in right of his wife, is the present lord.

We find also from an old record, that on the death of Edmund Beaupre, esq. many of his lands came to Mary, late wife of Richard Berwick, Anne Wright, widow, Edward Wright, son and heir of Catherine Wright, and Christian, daughters and co-heirs of Edmund Beaupre, esq. but this lordship was given by the said Edmund to Dorothy, his daughter, who married sir Robert Bell, and afterwards sir John Peyton, lieutenant of the tower of London.

The family of Beaupre Bell had intermarriages with many principal families in Norfolk, &c.

WEST DEREHAM ABBEY MANOR. This consisted of parcels of lands, fisheries, rents, and services, given by many persons; and in the 19th of Edw. I. the abbot of West Dereham had a manor here, which extended into Outwell and Emneth. In 1428, the

the temporalities of the said abbey here were valued at 10l. 13s. 8d.

At its dissolution it came to the crown, and on the 16th of June, in the 1st of queen Mary, was given to Edmund Beaupre, esq. to be held by knight's service, it being then farmed by him, with lands thereto belonging in Outwell and Emneth, in the tenure of Nicholas Steward, and it passed from him to the Bells, &c.

William earl Warren had, at the survey, six borderers in Outwell.

In the 3d of Edward I. the earl Warren held a manor here; after this we find no further account of it, being held by the Beaupre's, as we imagine, and united to their manor of Beaupre-hall.

Lord BARDOLPH'S MANOR, *alias CRIKTOT'S.* At the survey, Hermerus de Ferrariis, ancestor of the lords Bardolph, had six borderers here.

In the 50th of Henry III. Thomas de Yford (Ufford) held it, and had a swan mark on the water of Well, he impleading diverse for taking them, and the sheriff returned that the malefactors lived in the Isle of Ely, or confines, and that he could not do his office by reason of those persons who were disinherited, and lurked thereabouts.

The prior of Lewis granted by fine, in the 56th of the said king, to Robert de Ufford, one messuage, lands, and a moiety of a fishery here; but in the 27th of Edward I. sir William de Criketot, (of Criketot, in Suffolk), held the same in socage of lord Bardolph, in Upwell, valued at 5s. per ann. with the

the manors of Ashfield, &c. in Suffolk, leaving William his son and heir.

In the 47th of Edward III. William Walsham, and Thomas Ikeworth, released to Richard de Pakeham, and Joan his wife, heir to the Criketot's, all their rights in the manors of Upwell and Outwell, Criketot's, and in all the lands, &c. in Ashfield Magna and Parva, &c. in Suffolk, excepting the lands that Alberick de Wyke gave to William Criketot, and Isabel his wife.

After this, Gilbert Haultoft, esq. baron of the exchequer in the reign of Henry VI. was lord: He was buried in the church of Outwell, and left it to his daughter and co-heir, Alice, who married Thomas Dereham, esq. of Crimblesham; and by Elizabeth, his daughter and co-heir, it came by marriage to Thomas Fincham, esq. in which family it lately remained.

SAUTREYS, or WELLS, NORTON'S MANOR, and HACKBETCH, in Upwell. These manors Edmund Beaupre, esq. died seized of; they came also to the Bells, and are now held by Wm. Greaves, B.B. esq.

Thurning manor, in Upwell, with its appurtenances, granted the 28th of July, in the 30th of Henry VIII. to Thomas Meggs, to be held *in capite*.

WALSINGHAM MANOR. Walter de Burgo released by deed, without date, all his right in the homages, reliefs, services, &c. of the lands given by Roger Godlomb to the canons of Walsingham, and held by him in Upwell, opposite to Mulycourt, containing in all three hundred and eighty acres, with the tithes. Simon de Outwell, his son, and grand-
son

son, gave them also several lands here. In 1428, the temporalities of this house were taxed at 1l. 10s.

On the dissolution, it was granted, September 12, in the 36th of Henry VIII. to John Eyre, esq.

The nunnery of Nun-Eaton, in Warwickshire, had also a manor here that extended into Elme, and Emneth, the temporalities of which were taxed at 2l. 11s. in 1428; this was granted June 6, in the 33d of Henry VIII. to Thomas Manners, earl of Rutland, to be held *in capite*, and was then in the tenure of William Fyndon. Upwell leet fee 3s. 4d.

Many religious houses had possessions here;—the abbot of St. Neot's was charged at 20s. per ann. for his temporalities given by the earls of Clare.

The prior of Lewes was taxed, in 1428, for his temporalities in Upwell, and Outwell, two marks.—Abbot of Thorney, 7s. 6d.—Prior of Ely, 1l. 2s.—Monks of Thetford, 1l. 16s. 8d.—Abbot of Peterborough, 4s.—Prior of Norwich, 2l.—Prior of Ixworth, 2l. 8s.—Prior of Hempton, 16s.—Bury abbey, 12s.—Prior of Castle-Acre, 3s.—Priory of Crabhouse, 12s.—Simon Selvald, of Upwell, gave the monks of Castle-Acre the moiety of all his land.—Droge confirmed the grants made by his father, and gave all that he had in Well to the said priory.—Alexander de Alezun gave to that priory forty acres, and forty to the monks of Lewes.—Gilbert, son of Richard, the tithe of a mill in Well, and another in Wereham, to that priory.

The prior of Lynn had lands here in the 15th of Henry VIII. joining to Sheep Lode, and three furlongs of that lode was to be scoured by him.

Amongst the manuscripts of Peter Le Neve, Norroy, was a curious discourse of the marshes and fens in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire, by Francis Audeley, 1604.

In the time of Adam de Boothby, abbot of Peterborough, there was an indictment at Northampton against a stoppage of the water at Upwell, so that the river Nene could not have its course to Lynn, whereby the counties of Northampton, Lincoln, Bedford, Huntingdon, and Cambridge, were much damaged; and a decree was procured from Jeffrey le Scroop, the king's chief justice, for clearing the passage. It appears by a presentment of the jury, made in the 3d of Edward III. that the course of the water of the Nene came from Peterborough, through the limits of Upwell, and that Walter de Langton, bishop of Litchfield and Coventry, treasurer to Edw. I. in order to drain his manor of Coldham in that neighbourhood, stopped the course of the river with earth and sand, to the great damage of the country. They say on their oaths, that the river Ouse, descending from Huntingdon, and the river Nene, from Peterborough, met at Benwick, had used to run directly thence to the port of Lynn, by Outwell; and that by the said stoppage no navigable vessels could afterwards pass to and from Lynn, as they had wont to do; and Dugdale observes, that the river Ouse, whose current now discharges itself into the sea by Lynn, passed in King John's time under the town of Littleport, in the Isle of Ely, and so on to Wellenhee, (Welney) and through the two towns of Upwell and Outwell, whence it had the name of Well-Stream, and so under Walsoken sea-bank, through the washes between Lincolnshire and Marshland, into the sea, where the river Nene, that comes from Peterborough, by Wisbech, runs through those washes now, and slides into the sea. The

The church of Urwell is dedicated to St. Peter, and is a large regular pile, consisting of a nave, a north and south aisle, with a chancel, all of stone, embattled with brick, and covered with lead; the length of the nave is about seventy-one feet, and the breadth, including the aisles, about fifty-one.

About the middle of the nave lies a marble grave-stone, with this inscription on a plate of brass,—
Wilhelmi Damet et Clarifie uxoris, ej; qui quid Wills. obt. ix die Novemb. Ao. Dni. M.ccccxxvii. Quor. aiab; p'pit. Deus, Amen.

Near to the reading desk stands a large eagle on a pedestal, supported by three lions, all of brass.

Here are several tomb-stones in memory of the families of Butler, Ashton, Dymond, Audley, &c.

The roof of this nave is ornamented with carved work, and angels, with their wings expanded, bearing *insignia* relating to the crucifixion, support the principals; the whole is supported by neat pillars, forming six handsome arches on each side, with as many windows over them. At the east end of this nave, on the south side, is a stone turret and stair-case, which led to the rood loft; and on the north side is a table of the benefactors, 1727.

The north aisle has a neat oaken roof, with angels, &c. as the nave, and on the braces are many swans carved. At the east end of this aisle has been a chapel and altar.

On the pavement lies a marble grave-stone, with the portraiture of a priest; and on a brass plate,—*Hic jacet D'n. Wilms. Whytemete, quonda' rector de Taxham,*

*Qui obt. vii die mens. Septemb. Ao. Dom. Millo.
ccccxxxii. cuj; a'e p'pit. Deus Amen.*—Whytemete
was also rector of Oxburgh.

At the west end of this aisle stands a tower, the bottom part is four square, the upper octangular, of boulder, &c. embattled with brick; on this is a shaft, or spire of wood, covered with lead. In this tower hang six large bells, and here is a town clock; it has a porch of stone-covered with lead, and a room over it; on the old door are also several swans carved, as a rebus, likely, to some benefactor of that name, or as a compliment paid to Henry IV. who had a swan for his badge, or cognisance.

The south aisle has also a roof of the same work, &c. with the north ornamented with swans; at the east end of it has been an altar.

On the pavement lies a marble grave-stone, with the portraiture of a priest in brass, and on a plate,—*Hic jacet Dns. Henricus Martyn, quond. rector eccles. de Taxham, qui obt. primo die mens. Januarij Ao. Dni. Millo. cccc. xxxv. cuj; &c.*

At the west end of this aisle lies a stone in form of a coffin, carved, &c. and adorned with crosses pattee.

The chancel roof is also supported by angels, as is the nave, but not of equal beauty; here also are the effigies of demons, grinning horribly, as offended with the work.

On the area of this chancel, which is in length about forty-four feet, and about twenty in breadth, lies a marble stone, with a large portraiture of a priest in brass; it has been ornamented with curious canopy

canopy work, a rim round it, shields, and a plate of bras, but of these it is now deprived, and was, no doubt, in memory of a rector of this church, probably Mowbray.

Here also lies a marble grave-stone, with a large plate of bras, and thereon the portraiture of a man, and his wife, with a desk between them; behind the man kneel seven sons, and behind her four daughters; and thus inscribed:—“*These following verses are alluded to Jane Bell, deceased, the last wife of Sinolpus Bell, esq. who being aged 62 years, departed this life on Munday, being the 26th of February, 1621.*

*Here lyeth buried, of whome may be sayd
For parentage equall with most of in this land.
Noe wyves, maydes, or widdows, more hartily pray'd,
Then she in her closet, whose liberal hand,
Was ever releeving the poor in their neede,
For they and diseased of her did well speede.
Her name was Jane Caltropp, as being a mayde,
Her mother a Rookwood, of awncient descent,
She married a Bell, and nvr delayed
By deeds and good usage to give him content.
Children she had eleven, whereof daughters four,
Of whom remayne seven alive at this hower.*

Against the south wall is this atchievement, Bell with his quarterings, Col, Beaupre, St. Omer, Tony, Fotheringay, Strange, Dorward, Coggeshall, Fitz-Symons, Hawkwood, Harlike, Watshall, Gestingthorpe, and Clipsby impaling Calthorpe, and his quarterings; Bacon, Davillars, Wythe, Brett, Mautby, St. Omer, Stapleton, and Ingham, and this motto, “*Guard le Foy.*”

Above the screen, fronting the chancel, is a large piece of painting; in this the church of England is emblematically represented by a venerable matron, with proper inscriptions, and a part of Herbert's Poem, called the *British Church*.

King John in his 15th year granted this church to Robert de Gloucester for life, with the appurtenances.

John de Offenham occurs rector in 1260, and by deed then granted to John de Burgo leave to erect a chapel, called St. Botolph, in his own grounds, saving the rights of his church.

In 1303 the rector was presented by the abbot of Ramsey.

In 1505 the rector had a pension of ten marks per ann. settled on him till he could get a benefice, or benefices, of 40*l.* per ann.

In 1539 the rector was presented by Thomas Brakyn, esq. on a grant *hac vice* from the abbot; after this the patronage came to Edmund Beaupre, esq. as an appendix to the abbot's manor, together with a pension of two marks per ann. paid by the rector of old to the sacrist of Ramsey, and which was confirmed by John of Oxford, bishop of Norwich.—*Presbyter non conjugatis, S. T. P. satis doctus, non residet, non hospitalis, in Cantabrigia.*—Archbishop Parker's certificate.

In 1562* the patronage was in Thomas Barrow, Osbert

* About this time the right of presentation was in dispute.—See Dyer's Reports, p. 231.

Olbert Mundford, esq. and Edward Leeds, A. M. executors of the last will of Thomas Goodrick, late bishop of Ely, on a grant of the presentation *hac vice* from sir Edmund Montague, lord chief justice of the King's Bench, to whom John abbot of Ramsey had granted the next presentation.—*Non p'dicat, nec licentiatus, null. aliud.*

In 1603 five hundred and twenty-five communicants were returned to be in this parish.

In 1764 the Rev. Edward Pemberton, jun. was presented to the rectory of Upwell, with the chapel of Welney, by Edward Pemberton, sen. *p. h. v.* valued together at 600l. per ann.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 16l.—tenths are 1l. 12s. synodal, 3s.—procurat. 4s.—the old value was ten marks.

Thomas Wellys, of Upwell, advocate, by his will dated January 14, 1745, bequeaths his body to be buried in this church—to the light of Corpus Christi 13s. 4d. on condition that light hanging in the chancel burn night and day *for ever*, and to the other lights, according to the direction of his executors, a meadow piece of thirty acres to find a chantry priest (and a meadow, called Sallow-meadow, for the said use) to pray for his and his wife Alice's soul, and Henry Wellys's, late archdeacon of Lincoln, and William Whytemete, late rector of Yaxham, &c.

In this town, and Outwell, lived the ancient family of Wells.

This very populous and extensive village lies on each side of the navigable river Nene, which river

here divides the counties of Norfolk and Cambridge, and is the channel through which a great trade is carried on between the port of Lynn and the country upwards to Northampton, &c. Formerly the rivers Ouse, Grant, Cam, Nene, &c. passed through this village to Wisbech, and the Cross-Keys Wash, and was then called the *Well River*; but as some of our forefathers thought, that by diverting the waters of a river from its natural course the country would be better *drained*, they judged it necessary to reverse the order of things, and *force* this stubborn element into a compliance with their hydrostatick schemes.

The parsonage house here is a handsome venerable building; there are also some neat houses in the village, particularly a seat of John Wilkes, esq. knight of the shire for Middlesex, and chamberlain and alderman of the city of London: it is inhabited by Francis Dixon, esq. receiver-general of Cambridgeshire, and a very considerable merchant and manufacturer.

OUTWELL church is dedicated to St. Clement, and is a large regular building of Carr and boulder-stone, &c. consisting of a nave, a north and south aisle, and a chancel, all embattled with copings of stone and brick, the roof is of oak, covered with lead; at the west end of the nave is a four-square tower of the aforesaid materials, with quoins of free-stone; on that is raised a neat spire of wood, covered with lead; in this tower is a ring of five bells, and a town clock; the length of the church from the west door to the chancel is about seventy-eight feet, and the breadth, including both the aisles, fifty-three feet.

On a stone in the nave is an inscription,—*In memory of Robert Measures, gent. who married Mary, daughter and*

and heir of Thomas Spenceley, of South Lynn, gent. who died December 1666, Aet. 45.—Here also is a large brass eagle.

The roof of the south aisle is raised like that of the nave, supported by saints and angels bearing scrolls in their hands, and here is an anchor carved, the insignia of St. Clement; the east end of this aisle is inclosed with a screen, and is the ancient chapel of St. Mary, the burial place of the Beaupres, &c.

Against the south-east wall of this is a large grey marble altar monument, with its wall-piece;—on the summit is the shield of Beaupre, with his quarterings; St Omer, Fotheringay, Strange, of Suffolk, Dorward, Coggeshall, and Harfick.—*Edmundus de Beaupre, Armiger, qui obt. quarto decimo die mensis Feb. Aº. Dni. millesimo, quingentiº. sexagesimo septimo, cuius animæ p'pit. &c.*

Under this another shield, with the same quarterings,—*Nicholas de Beaupre, qui obt. duodecimo, die Febr. An. Dni. millesimo, quintagesimo, duodecimo quor. animab. p'pit, &c.*

The east window of this chapel contains several figures of Saints painted on the glass, St. Edmund the king, St. Edward the Confessor, St. Anthony, St. Laurence, &c. and on the summit is the prophane representation of the Deity (as in the time of popery) vested in robes of blue, seated in a chair of gold, with an orb in his hand; but this will less surprize us, when we are told by Onuphrius*, that “ In the church

* Onuph. de 7 Sanct. Eccles. Urbis Romæ—See Weaver's Fun. Mon. p. 164.

church of St. Lateran, at Rome, behind the high altar, there stands, a chair, which God sat in, and who ever sitteth therein hath the third part of all his sins released."—The shield of the five wounds—gules, an heart, or, between a dexter and sinister hand, and a dexter and sinister foot couped, saltire ways, argent; and azure, a cup, or, with the wafer, or panis, argent.

And in the south window the figures of St. Peter, &c. Within the south wall is an old enetched monument, for the founder, without any date, arms, or inscription; against the wall hangs an achievement, with the arms of Bell, and the same is carved on the roof. The south window aforesaid seems to have been thus beautified by Margaret, wife of Thomas de Beaupre, who died in 1439, and therein is still to be seen a lady on her knees.—This aisle has a porch, with a room over it.

About the middle of the north aisle, in the wall, is an arch, and passage to a chapel, which is in length about 18 feet, and 15 in breadth, with a good oaken roof, painted, supported by angels, with the insignia of the crucifixion in their hands, and wings expanded, covered with lead. Against the north wall of this chapel is an altar monument, but the brass plate that was thereon is gone: in the east window are the broken remains of persons on their knees, and this date, M.CCCCXX, and on the south wall, over the arch, is the salutation of the virgin Mary painted; it is called Lynn chapel, and probably might belong to an ancient family of that name, of good account in Cambridgeshire. On the roof may be observed some chevrons, gules.

At the east end of this north aisle is a large chapel, about twenty-six feet in length and eighteen in breadth,

breadth, covered with lead; the windows of this chapel are beautiful.

Gilbert Haultoft, or Hiltost, one of the barons of the exchequer, is said to have built this chapel, but John Fincham, esq. who married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Thomas Dereham, esq. by Alice, his wife, first daughter and co-heir of Gilbert, seems to be the founder, by the arms.

On the summit of the east window are the figures of our Saviour, St. Michael, St. George, and that of St. Audrey, and the arms of the see of Ely.

In a north window near to this—the figures of St. Edward the king and Confessor, with a gold ring in one hand, and a sceptre in the other; St. Edmund the king and martyr, with an arrow in one hand, and a sceptre in the other; St. Ethelbert, king and martyr, with an orb and a sceptre; all these well executed, as large almost as life, in their robes and crowned.—Over St. Edward the king are the arms of Fincham, impaling quarterly Elmham, and Wells; over St. Edmund the king, Howard impaling Tendring, of Suffolk; in a garter, over St. Ethelbert, Fincham impaling Tendring; in the same window are the arms of Fincham, Haultoft, and Dereham; in the lowest north window, Carvel impaling Fincham and Haultoft, quarterly, &c. In this window are the figures of the wise men, with their offerings, almost as large as life, and the Virgin teaching the child Jesus.

On the area lies a marble grave-stone with a brass plate,—*Hic jacet Margareta Haultoft, quondam ux. Gilberti Haultoft, uni. baronu, sc' aij. nup. Dni. Henrici VI. reg. Ang. cuij. a'ie, p'pit. Deus, &c.*

On

On a marble grave-stone,—*In memory of John Fincham, esq. who died March 24, 1709, in the 80th year of his age; here also lye his wives Mary and Susan, by whom he had 2 sons and 7 daughters, all here buried, Mary, Frances, Jno. Jane, Catherine, Christian, the last Elizabeth, wife of Matt. Hardy, gent. w^o departed, &c. Aug. 2, 1731 aged 61; with the arms of Fincham.*

The chancel is in length about forty-two feet, and twenty in breadth, and is covered with lead. In the east window are the arms of Beaupre, and St. Omer, and in a small pannel, transposed quarterly, Morgan bishop of Ely.

On a beam, *Orate p. a*ia*a. Robti. Bottler, quond. hujus eccles. rectoris; and on the roof, S. R. B. to shew it was repaired or erected at the said rector's charge.*

Within the rails of the communion table, on a grave-stone,—*Here lyeth the body of William Stanton, bach. in divinitate, and parson of this church of Outwell, which deceased xxi, 1580.*

In the south window of the chancel there was formerly this antique piece of painting:—A matron in a white robe and blue mantle, on her knees, between four men; at her feet, a fox hanging on a tree, wounded in the neck with two arrows, behind and before two monkies with bows, shooting at the fox.

The feast of the dedication of this church was kept on the 21st of November, and changed by the bishop of Norwich, about 1470, and enjoind to bee kept on the 24th of September,

George

George Boteler, parson of Melton, by will, in 1541, gave his house in Oughtwell (Outwell) called Stonham's, to this town, on condition that the parish clerk should dwell in it for ever, at the assignment of the churchwardens, and the clerk to give xiiid. to the poor people on Midlent Sunday.

In 1216, (17th of John's reign) the rector was presented by the king, in the vacancy of the see of Ely.

In the beginning of the reign of Edward I. the book called *Norwich Doomsday* (which was wrote then, and is in the custody of the dean and chapter thereof,) acquaints us, that the bishop of Ely was then patron, and that the rector had at that time neither house nor land.

In 1556, Adam Loftowse, or Loftus, D.D. chaplain to the earl of Sussex, was presented to this church: He was afterwards archbishop of Armagh, in 1562, in Ireland, and chancellor; and was of Trinity-college, Cambridge.

About 1578, the rector is said to have a parsonage house, &c. three acres of arable and three of pasture land adjoining to his house; it is thought that parson Boteler, in 1520, purchased the pasture, and left it to the church.

In 1583, the rector was presented by queen Elizabeth.

In 1603, three hundred and twenty communicants were returned in this parish, and the patronage was in the king.

In

In 1634, the rector was admitted by the commissioners at Whitehall, appointed for the approbation of public preachers; and in 1709, the patronage was again in the bishop of Ely, with whom it now remains.

The Rev. Richard Oram was presented to this rectory by the bishop of Ely, 1760.

The church is valued in the king's books at 16l. —Tenths, 1l. 12s.—Synodals, 4s.—Procurations, 4s. the old value was ten marks.—Peter-pence, 8d.

In this parish was the hermitage of St. Christopher. In the 22d of Edward III. a patent was granted for building a chapel to it.

MULICOURT PRIORY, called also the chapel of St. Mary de Bello Loco. In the parish of Outwell, and county of Norfolk, on the right hand of Well-Creak, on the bank as you go from Outwell to Downham, stood this little priory, founded in the time of the Saxons (as is said) of the order of St. Benedict.

In the reign of Henry III. Adam, son and heir of sir John de Brancaster, granted to Robert de Hale, rector of Aylington, the patronage of this priory of St. Mary of Mulicourt, with one acre of land in Brancaster, for ten marks sterl paid him in his urgent necessity, without date. And Henry de Hale, clerk, by his deed, dated at Outwell, on Thursday after the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, in the 7th of Edward II. granted it to John de Beaupre, of Outwell.

Afterwards

Afterwards it became so poor, through the great inundations of water, fresh and salt, the sterility of the lands on that account, the great expences and charges in repairing the lands and houses, that there was not (as was represented) maintenance left sufficient to support one monk, so that it was by licence of Henry VI. united and appropriated to the priory of Ely.—“ Henry by the grace of God, king of England, &c. know, &c. that we have granted and given license to our beloved the prior and convent of Mulicourt, that they may give and grant to the prior and covent of Ely one messuage, and twenty-four acres of land in Wynnal, called Towtes, and eight messuages in Outwell, Upwell, and Downham, in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, and seven acres of land in Emneth, and all other lands and tenements, rents and services, which the aforesaid prior and convent of Mulicourt now have in the towns of Outwell, Emneth, Walsoken, Downham, and Lenne, in Norfolk, and in the towns of Outwell, Upwell, Wysbeach, and Leveryngton, in Cambridgeshire, to have and to hold to the aforesaid prior and convent of Ely, and their successors for ever. And likewise we have granted, &c. to the aforesaid prior and convent of Ely, that they, with the assent and consent of those that have interest, may unite, annex, incorporate and appropriate the priory of Mulicourt, with all its rights, &c. to the said church of the priory and convent of Ely, also license to the prior of Ely to receive or purchase ten marks per ann. in mortmain, so that the lands given or purchased be not held *in capite* of the crown.—Dated at Westminster, 7 August, 24 An. Regni.—Witness, Myself at Westminster, the 7th of August, in the 24th year of our reign.” Accordingly it was appropriated by the bishop of Norwich, December 4. 1449, the church of Ely paying

ing to the see of Norwich a yearly pension of 3s. 4d. Before this, on the 23d of February, 1385, the bishop of Ely granted forty days of pardon to all benefactors to this priory, on account of its poverty.

The temporalities of this priory, in 1428, were valued at 100s. and in the 13th of Edward II. the prior paid 18s. 4d. for his tenths in Outwell and Upwell.

April 10, 1369, John de Dereham was admitted prior, on the presentation of sir Thomas Beaupre; no election was made for the want of monks; and on June 3, 1427, Stephen Wyse was admitted. It appears from the institution books, that he was the only monk then in the convent, so that the bishop (*gratioso*) out of pure favour admitted him.

The scite of the priory and lands here are in the dean and chapter of Ely, and now held by lease of that body.

MARMOUND, or MIRMOUND PRIORY, was in the parish of Upwell, but in the Isle, and county of Cambridge, of the order of St. Gilbert of Sempringham, founded in the reign of Richard I. with the leave of Eustachius bishop of Ely, by sir Ralph Hauvyle, or de Alta-Villa, who gave to this poor house three hundred acres of fine pasture, lying in Upwell and Outwell, on both sides of the water, to have the prayers of three priests in the said house, the feeding of sixty small beasts in the said pasture, and 5s. annual rent. Sir Thomas, his son and heir, confirmed the same, and granted liberty of pasture for four mares, with their foals; also four couple of swans, paying 5s. rent per ann. In the 11th of Edward II. Thomas de Hauvill, lord of Rainham

Parva,

Parva, in Gallow hundred, gave the advowson of that church to this priory, and, anno 10, the manor of Dunton in the said hundred.

In 1428, the temporalities of this house, in Upwell and Outwell, were valued at 11. 8s.

In the 28th of Henry VIII. Peter Church was prior.

Mr. Parkin had by him a small parchment roll, by time much obscured, of the state of this house in 1520, which manifests its meanness and poverty.

Status Domus Beat. Marie de M'mond in festo Sti. Ambroſij Ep' i. A°. Dmni. M. ccccc. viceſimo quarto.

	<i>In Catallis cu. alijs- p'tin.</i>
<i>Debita Domus.</i>	<i>It. in Equ. in stabulo ij.</i>
<i>It. imp. Will. Demmet uj.</i>	<i>It. in Vacc. et Vitul. viii.</i>
<i>It. Redib.</i>	<i>+ It. in Cymball. - ij.</i>
<i>It. Dompu. Joh. Replyng- ham</i>	<i>It. in magnis retibus & reticulis. - - xv.</i>
<i>It. Vicar. de Dunton.</i>	<i>+ It. in Nassis. - - xvi.</i>
<i>It. in tent. apd. Well.</i>	<i>* It. in Lupis & Lupill. xxx.</i>
<i>It. in tent. apd. Wallfokyn.</i>	<i>It. in Anguillis. - iii.</i>

Pensions of 2l. 13s. 4d. were paid to some religious of this dissolved house in the 1st year of queen Mary, as appears from the auditor's account, John Eyre, esq.

At the suppression, it was valued, according to Speed, at 13l. 6s. 1½d. and 10l. 7s. 7d. as Dugdale.

R

Roger

† Little fishing boats.

† Hoop nets, or gluts.

* Pikes and Pickerels.

Roger Walker, in 1535, is called late prior of this cell, and surrendered it, with one canon or monk, and had a pension of 2l. 13s. 4d. per ann.

On the 8th of April, in the 9th of James I. mes-
suages in Upwell, and five acres in Plowfield, Up-
well, of the priory of Marmound, in the county of
Cambridge, were granted to John Aldred, and
George Whitmore, esq.

John Eyre, esq. in the 36th of Henry VIII. had a
great close in Outwell, called Wadingstowe, belong-
ing lately to Walsingham abbey, granted him by
the king.

In the 10th of Elizabeth, this priory was granted
to Percival Bowes, and John Mofyer.

In this parish of Outwell, on the king's highway,
was the hermitage of St. Christopher, with a chapel
thereto belonging, near to the church, as appears by
a patent of Edward III. in his 22d year.

The village of Outwell, like that of Upwell, lies
on each side of the river, and, together, forms a
street of three or four miles long. The turnpike
road between Downham and Wisbech passes through
the town.

Beaupre-hall, in this parish, is the seat of William
Beaupre Bell, esq. of Foulbourne, in Cambridgeshire;
and, considering its situation in a fen country,
is an eligible residence for the best family.

WALLINGTON, called in Doomsday-book Wal-
linghetuna, (that is, says Parkin, a town with
mounds or walls of earth fencing it against the
watry

watry meadows). Hermerus seized on it, being in the Confessor's time the possessions of Turstin, a freeman, who had an hundred acres of land, &c. valued at 12s. and was only under protection; here was a church, with twenty-six acres, valued at 16d.

In the same were seven freemen in the Confessor's time, who held sixty acres, valued at 14s. per ann. of six of these Hermerus's predecessor had the protection only, and Guert, the earl, had it of the 7th, valued at 20d. and Hermerus seized on this freeman: the whole is four furlongs long, and three broad, and paid 6d. to the gelt. Over all these Ramsey abbey has the soc.

Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, had also thirty acres of land, which Husgarla, a freeman, held in the Confessor's time, valued at 3s. This part was soon after in the hands of the descendants of Hermerus, and held by the Bardolphs, lords of Wormegay, and with the foregoing parts made up the manors of Sybeton-Hall, and Easton-hall, in this village.

SYBETON-HALL. What is said of this hall in Thorpland, will serve also in this town, being possessed by the same lords, and passed through several hands till it came to Philip Bell, &c.

EASTON-HALL. This also passed (as mentioned in Thorpland) from the family of Easton to William Hunt, who was lord in the 3d year of Henry IV. and afterwards came to the family of the Gawsells.— Thomas Gawsell, esq. died lord of Easton-Hall, in this village and Thorpland, in 1500, with lands in Carboisthorpe, Wimbottisham, Stow, Fodderton, East-winch, Wiggenhall, &c, and gave lands in Fordham, Hilgay,

Hilgay, Denver, Riston, Roxham, Upwell, Outwell, and Tilney, in Norfolk; and Littleport, in Cambridgeshire.

In the 16th of Henry VIII. Thomas Gawfell conveyed this manor of Wallington, and Thorpland, to William Conningsby, esq. (one of the justices of the King's Bench in the 32d of the said king) son of sir Humphrey, who was made justice of the King's Bench May 21, in the 1st of Henry VIII. descended from Roger de Conningsby, lord of Conningsby, in Lincolnshire, in the reign of king John. William Conningsby, esq. aforesaid, (who first settled here) was father of Christopher Conningsby, esq. who was slain in the 1st of Edward VI. at the battle of Musselburgh, in Scotland, and left by his wife, Ann, daughter of sir Roger Wodehouse, of Kimberly, three daughters and co-heirs; Elizabeth, the eldest, was married to Francis Gawdy, esq. who in her right became lord of this place, and Thorpland; he was the third son of Thomas Gawdy, esq. of Harleston, in Norfolk. In the 30th of Elizabeth he was serjeant at law, and queen's serjeant May 17, 1582; and in the 20th of the said queen bought of sir Thomas Mildmay the manor of Sybeton, in this town. In 1589 he was made a judge of the King's Bench, and August 25, 1605, chief justice of the common pleas, being then a knight; he died of an apoplexy at Serjeant's Inn, London, before he had sat a year in the station, and was buried in the neighbouring church of Runcton.—Sir Henry Spelman says, "that having this manor, &c. in right of his wife, he induced her to acknowledge a fine thereof, on which she became a distracted woman, and continued so to the day of her death, and was to him for many years a perpetual affliction; he had by her an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married to sir William Hatton, who

who died also without issue male, and left a daughter and heir, Frances, brought up with her grandfather, the judge, and was secretly married, against his will, to sir Robert Rich*, (afterwards earl of Warwick) son of Robert earl of Warwick. The judge being shortly after made lord chief justice of the common pleas, (at a dear rate, as was reported) was suddenly striken with an apoplexy, and died without issue male, ere he had continued in his place one whole Michaelmas term, and having made his appropriate parish church a hay-house, or a dog-kennel, his dead corps being brought from London to Wallington, could for many days find no place of burial, but growing very offensive, he was at last conveyed to the church of Runcton, and buried there without any ceremony, and lieth yet covered (if the visitors have not reformed it) with so small a matter as a few paving-stones;—and indeed no stome or memorial was there ever for him, and if it was not for this account, it would not have been known that he was buried here.

This village, with Thorpland, was thus brought by judge Gawdy's grand-daughter into the Warwick family; on the death of Robert earl of Warwick, (who left three daughters and co-heirs) it came by marriage of Essex, the third daughter, to Daniel Finch, earl of Nottingham, who sold it to Philip Bell, esq. from whom it came to Philip Bell, esq. his nephew, whose son was late lord; Henry Bell, esq. is now lord and patron.

The hall is the only house now standing; the town was depopulated by judge Gawdy, who had a park here.

R 3

The

* She is said to have brought to sir Robert Rich 10,000*l.* per ann.

The church of Wallington was dedicated to St. Margaret, and is now in ruins, nothing being standing but the tower, which is owing to its being profaned by judge Gawdy. That it was standing in 1509 appears from the will of John Hale, of Wallington, who bequeaths his body to be buried in the church-yard of St. Margaret. Christopher Conningsby, of Wallington, esq. who died in the 2d of Edward VI. 1548, was buried in the church of Wallington. That it was formerly a distinct parish appears from its endowment in the Conqueror's time, when there belonged to it twenty-six acres of glebe land; but in 1416 it is called a chapel belonging to Runceton. In the time of Edward I. it was called a rectory in the patronage of the abbot of Bury, belonging to Runceton, valued with it, and paid Peter-pence 7d.

Wallington, the seat of Henry Bell, esq. is a large and handsome house, delightfully situated, and ornamented with lofty trees, and later plantations; it stands near the road leading from Downham to Lynn, and commands an extensive prospect across Marshland.

THORPLAND, a small hamlet now belonging to Wallington aforesaid, but formerly a village or township by itself; in Doomsday-book called Torplanda, and Torp; the greatest part of it was in the hands of Hermerus de Ferrariis, lord of Wormegay, at the survey, and held by Turchetel. Bordinus held under Hermerus lands, &c. a church endowed with six acres, valued at the survey, in all at 20s. it was one leuca long, and four furlongs broad, and paid 8d. to the gelt when the hundred was assed at 20s. Hermerus had also seized on eight free-men, who held property, valued at 12d.—In the same were eight

eight customary tenants belonging to the lord's fold, valued at 10s.—Also twenty-eight acres, valued at 2s. 8d. besides thirty acres which Godwin, a free-man, held, who afterwards became an outlaw. Hermerus had with this one carucate of land, &c. and he gave surety for those and other effects.

SYBETON-HALL. The possessions of Hermerus abovementioned descended to the lords Bardolph, and became part of the honor of Worinegay. In the reign of Henry III. when an aid was granted him on the marriage of his sister to the emperor, Nicholas de Sybeton held the 9th part of a fee here of the aforesaid honor; and Hamon de Sybeton granted by fine, in the 44th of the said king, his manor here, and that of Wallington, with lands in Stow, &c. to Mr. William de Clare, and his heirs, to be held of Haman, and his heirs. In the 3d of Edward I. Geoffrey de Thorpland held it, and claimed the leet, assize of bread and beer, gallows, all forfeitures, &c. but in the 9th of Edward III. Adam, son of John, of Watlington, held a messuage and forty acres of land here of John de Thorpland, by the service of 2s. per ann. In the 5th of Henry VI. sir John Colvil was lord; and in the 17th of the said king he settled this manor on a chantry which he founded in the church of Newton, in Cambridgeshire. At the dissolution it was granted to Thomas Mildmay; and in the 30th of Elizabeth sir Thomas Mildmay conveyed it to Francis Gawdy, esq. and so it came into the Warwick family, and by the marriage of Essex, one of the daughters and co-heirs of Robert earl of Warwick, to Daniel Finch, earl of Nottingham, who sold it to Philip Bell, esq. who gave it to his nephew, Philip Bell, esq. (younger brother to Beaupre Bell, esq. of Outwell,) whose son died lord.

and left a son and heir, then a minor. Henry Bell, esq. of Wallington, is the present lord.

EASTON-HALL. In the reign of Henry III. Sarah de Easton held lands here of the honor of Wormegay by the fourth part of a fee. Nicholas Beaupre, in the 11th of Richard II. aliened to the nunnery of Crabhouse a messuage and thirty-three acres of land here, in Wiggenhall, and Tilney. In the 3d of Henry IV. William Hunt was lord, after this it came to the Gawsells, and Thomas Gawsell, of Wallington, esq. died lord in 1500; from the Gawsells it was conveyed to the Conningbys, Gawsells, &c. to the earl of Nottingham, and to Bell, of Wallington.

Besides these two lordships, in the 3d of Edward I. the prior of Westacre, and the priors of Crabhouse, held the third part of a fee of the gift of Alexander de Thorpland, of the honor of Wormegay. On the dissolution this was granted to Mildmay, who conveyed it to Gawsell, and so was united with the aforesaid lordships.

The temporalities of the prior of Westacre here, and in Wallington, in 1428, were valued at 22s. 4d. per ann. and their spiritualities at 20s.

ABBOT OF BURY'S MANOR. The abbot of St. Edmund's Bury, at the survey, had a free-man who held four acres, of whom he had the protection only. Ramsey abbey had the soc, it was valued at 8d. This was part of the abbot's manor of Runcton.

The temporalities of the prior of Shouldham, here, and in Wallington, in 1428, were valued at

14s. 3d. The tenths of this village and Wallington were 1l. 13s. Deduct 6s. 8d. Remain 1l. 6s. 4d.

The church, or chapel, which was here, has been in ruins two, or near three centuries; that there was one at the conquest, and endowed, we have already observed; and that it was standing in 1434 appears from the will of Thomas Foston, of Carboisthorpe, who gave to the church of Thorpland 3s. 4d. and in 1488, Roger Lane, rector of Runceton, bequeathed to the church of St. Thomas, of Thorpland, the same sum; the chapel, or church of Wallington, after this, served both places for their public worship, till about 140 years past; after that fell, the church of Runceton, and since the fall of that, these hamlets are obliged to go to the church of Holme. On the death of sir Francis Gawdy it was found that he died seised of the rectory of Thorpland. It is said to have been appropriated anciently to the priory of Westacre, and the prior had a manse with twelve acres; it was valued at 20s. Peter-pence gd.

This hamlet is situated between Holme and Stow-Bardolph, and being annexed to Wallington, is called Wallington cum Thorpland, of which Henry Bell, esq. is lord and patron.

WATLINGTON. This town is not mentioned in the book of Doomsday, or the Conqueror's grand survey, being part of the townships of Shouldham, Wormegay, and Westbridge, whose lordships extended here; it takes its name from its scite, lying by the water, and a wet soil, thus, Watton, Watford, &c.

BRUSSYARD'S MANOR, &c. Hermerus de Ferraris was the capital lord of it, and of Wormegay, &c. and

and from him it came to the lords Bardolph, barons of Wormegay, and was held of them by a family that assumed their name from it.

Sir Robert de Watlington lived in the reign of king Stephen, and sir Peter in that of Henry II.— William, his son, dying in the 17th of Henry III. left Robert, his son and heir, whose wardship was granted to Robert le Moyne, who gave the king two palfreys, &c. as a fine for it; and in the 34th of that king he was of age, held a whole knight's fee, but was not a knight.

Of this family was Ralph, son of Basilia de Watlington, who by deed without date granted, with the consent of his heirs, and confirmed to the infirm brethren of the hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, on the causeway between Lynn and Gaywood, lands here, to be held of him and his heirs, paying 8d. per ann. and for this the said brethren gave to him, in Gersumia (as a present) three marks of silver, to his wife, Basilia, 2s. and to his eldest son 1s. &c.

In the 3d of Edward I. William de Watlington was lord, claimed the leet, had the assize of bread and beer, gallows, &c. and in the 1st of Edward III. Geffrey de Brusseyard, and Agnes, his wife, late wife of Robert de Watlington, held it of lord Bardolph.

The said Geffrey presented to this church in the 15th of Edward II.

After this it was in the Bartholomews, and in the 20th of Edward III. John, son of Bartholomew, occurs lord of Tusnard's, or Gussard's manor, in Watlington, (so called corruptly for Brusseyard, from Geffrey de Brusseyard aforesaid) with the appurtenances in Tottenhill,

Tottenhill, Setch, &c. the advowson of the church of Watlington, liberty of a fold course, free bull and boar, doing suit to the three-week court, and other services.

In the years 1407, 1412, 1413, and 1418, John Glemsford, esq. of Watlington, presented, in right of his wife, Margaret, daughter of John Bartholomew, to whom the manor, called Bartholomew's, belonged by right of inheritance. This Margaret had a sister and co-heir, Catherine, the wife of Robert Drew, who had part of Bartholomew's inheritance here, &c.

In the 11th of Henry VI. Catherine, late wife of Robert Drew, held twenty-four acres of land here, in tail, of the honor of Wormegay, a messuage, &c. and 10s. per ann. rent here, and in Runcion, Shouldham-Thorpe, and Setch, by the service of the 40th part of a fee, with forty acres of pasture in Saddlebow and Setch, in socage.

John de Glemsford, esq. out-lived his wife, Margaret, and held this lordship by the courtesy of England; he died in the 15th of Henry VI. leaving two daughters and co-heirs, Agnes and Catherine; (and a son, Charles, by a former wife, who had no interest here). Catherine, the eldest, was married to Thomas Hawdekyn, esq. who presented in her right to this church in 1425, and 1427, and after his death to William Bolton, and died without issue. Agnes, her sister, married John Curteis, and died before her father, Glemsford, leaving Catherine her daughter and sole heir; and on the death of her aunt, Catherine was found her heir, and proving her age in the 22d of Henry VI. had livery of this manor, and in 1451 presented to this rectory.

Soon

Soon after this it was possessed by the Shouldhams, and Thomas Shouldham, esq. of this town, dying in 1467, was buried in this church; and Hugh Shouldham presented to this church, as lord and patron, in 1487, and 1497.

Soon after it came to the Gawsells by marriage with the Kerviles, of Wiggenhall St. German's; and Richard Gawsell, esq. presented to the church in 1531, and held this manor and advowson of the king, as of the honor of Wormegay, by half a knight's fee, but the service of castle-guard was then unknown.

Thomas Gawsell, esq. died lord January 2, 1600, and left by Susan, daughter of Gregory Pratt, esq. two sons, Gregory, and Edmund; Gregory died unmarried March 5, 1656, and this lordship came to Susan, daughter and heir of Edmund, which Susan was married to sir John Davis, of Berecourt, in Berkshire, by whom she had Gregory Davis, esq. lord, who died in 1706, leaving two sons by Bridget, daughter of Hatton Berners, esq. Gregory, who died a minor in 1710, and John Davis, esq. the late lord, who married Susan, daughter and co-heir of Philip Bedingfield, esq. and died without issue in 1778.

Another part, or lordship, in this town, was held by Thomas de Watlington, and his parceners, in the reign of Henry III. by the fourth part of a fee, of the honor of Wormegay.

From the family of the Watlingsons it came to William Steward, by the marriage of Joan, daughter of William de Watlington, who on Sunday before the feast of the Circumcision, in the 16th of Richard II. (being then a widow) conveyed the same to Lawrence

rence Trusbutt, esq. and Nicholas, his son; but in the 5th of Henry VI. Robert Kervile was found to hold it by the fourth part of a fee, of the honor of Wormegay.

In the year 1434 the said Robert Kervile, of Watlington, died, and was buried in the church of St. Peter and Paul, of this town, on the south side.

The Kerviles, or Carvills, of this town, were a younger branch of a very ancient family, that had large possessions at Wiggenhall St. Mary's (their seat), and other parts in this neighbourhood. In the 11th year of Edward III. they held lands here.

Thomas Kervile, of Watlington, lord of this fee, died in 1532, and was buried in this church; besides his manor here, he had lands in Runcton, Holme, Setch, Wiggenhall, and South-Lynn, and one foldage and an half in this town.

Thomas, his son, held the lands in the towns before mentioned, and in Tottenhill and Wallington.

From the Kerviles it came to the Gawsells, and so was united to the manor of Bartholomew's, &c.

Thomas Gawsell, of Watlington, esq. married Catherine, daughter and co-heir of Humphrey Kervile, esq. of Wiggenhall St. German's. His descendant, Thomas Gawsell, esq. by Susan, daughter of Gregory Pratt, esq. had two sons; 1st. Gregory, who died without issue, - - - - , and Edmund, who by a daughter of Mr. Gray, had Susan, his daughter and heir, married to sir John Davis, whose grandson, John Davis, esq. was the late lord and

and patron; on whose decease, in 1778, it came to Thomas Plestow, esq. of London.

The abbot of West-Dereham had a lordship here, which, on its dissolution, was granted August 29. anno 37. Henry VIII. to Richard Gawsell, esq. and so was united to the rest.

The prior of Shouldham had a small fee in this town; the temporalities of that house were valued here at 4s. per ann. in the year 1428.

This was given to it on its foundation by Jeffrey Fitz-Piers, earl of Essex, who held it of the honor of Clare, and in the 3d of Henry IV. the earl of March (a descendent of the earls of Clare) held here, in Shouldham, Stradset, Fodderston, Wallington, Thorpe, Stoke, Wretton, and Wereham, one fee and a quarter in capite; but this at the dissolution came to the Gawsells, and so to the Davis's.

The prior of Westacre had also lands in this town, valued in 1428 at 7s. per ann. Robert Smith held this (which was fifty-four acres) of the prior, and died seized thereof in the 9th year of Henry VII.

West-Dereham temporalities were valued at 1l. 4s. 1d. ob. — The abbot of Bury had lands here, valued in 1428 at 6s. per ann. — The abbot of Ramsey had lands then valued at 5s. 8d. per ann. — And the prior of Petriflon land then valued at 12d. per ann. all which, it is likely, came on the dissolution of those houses to the Gawsells, &c.

In the reign of Henry III. Alexander le Moyne, and his parceners, held here, and in Wallington, Setch,

Setch, Fodderston, Hardwick, &c. a knight's fee of the lord Bardolph: this was held in the reign of Edward III. by Benedict Russell, the priorels of Blackburgh, Edmund de Monpinzoun, &c.

Robert de Watlington by deed without date, in the reign of Henry II. confirmed to the monks of Castle-Acre all his tenements, lands, meadows, pastures, &c. which his ancestors, and himself, had given to them.

Reginald de Warren, at the request of sir Robert de Wallington, knt. confirmed to the monks of Castle-Acre all the grants which the aforesaid Robert, or his ancestors, had made to them.

The leet was in the abbey of Ramsey, and at the dissolution it came to the Hares, of Stow-Bardolph.
—Leet-fee, 2s. 8d.

The church of Watlington is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul; it has a nave, with a north and south aisle annexed, all covered with lead, and built of carr-stone and boulder, in length about fifty-seven feet, in breadth, including the aisles, about forty-three feet. At the west end of the nave is a four-square tower of the same materials, with quoins of free-stone, embattled with brick, but cop'd with stone, and four stone pinnacles, one at each corner; on this is a cap of wood, covered with lead, a weather-cock thereon, and four bells are in the said tower.

In the lowest window of the north aisle are the remains of the figures of St. John Baptist, St. John the Evangelist, and that of our Saviour, but their heads are broken off.—In the next, or second window, as you ascend, is the figure of St. Paul, and under him

him is the portraiture of a woman in a yellow gown, on her knees, her hands erect, and under her, in old characters, these remains of an inscription: ----
et Cecilia uxor ej.

In the highest window of this aisle, in the upper pannels, are the remains of the figures of three women saints, but their heads, &c. are broken off; that in the middle seems to be the Virgin Mary, underneath her is the bust of a woman (the rest of her being broke out) holding a chain of gold, or string of beads, in her right hand, in a blue gown, on her knees, and her hands erect, and in an old character, — *Orate p. aiab; Galfridi de Brusseyard, et Agnetis uxor ej.* This window is edg'd with goats heads coup'd, argent, attir'd and barb'd, or.

The east window of the said aisle has been finely illuminated, as all the rest have been, by particular benefactors, and here are now parrots, and bunches of grapes, painted; at the east end is an ascent, and this aisle has been some chapel. On the pavement here lies a marble, the plate and label of brass, wherewith it was ornamented, which, together with the portraiture, is reaved, but by the incision of the stone, it was no doubt in memory of some priest that here officiated.

At the west end of the nave is an old curious font; and as you ascend the nave, on the pavement, lies a large marble grave-stone, which had a stately cross floral, with four shields, and a rim of brass round it, about which was the inscription in French; the letters were of brass, the stone being cut and fitted so as to receive them, all which are now sacrilegiously reaved; by the incision, where the stone is not quite worn through, this may be made out: —

— D E

— — — — — DE ROSE — — — — —
— — — — — DE CHIVALERIE. — — — — —
SAME. PRIE. — — — — — DEV. DE SAME. — — — — — MERCI.

This seems to be as old as Edward I.'s time, and is probably in memory of sir Robert de Watlington, who lived in that reign.

About the middle of the nave lies a marble, inscribed—*To Thomas Inglebright, of Watlington, grocer, who died Feb. 2d, 1702, aged 35*—and to several of his children.

On the back part of the pulpit—*Given by Henry Punting, and augmented by Elizabeth his wife, 1616.*

On a large marble stone, at the east end of the nave,—*Here lyeth the body of William Knipe, gent. and Elizabeth his wife; he died April 25, 1654, aged 25; she died November 29, 1672, aged 44, who had issue Peter, and Mary.*

And against the wall, at the south-east corner of this nave, hangs an achievement, Knipe, and thus inscribed,—*Nere this place lyeth interr'd the body of William Knipe, son and heir of Peter Knipe, of Wyftwinch, in the county of Norfolk, gent. and Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of Thomas Crofts, of this parish, who departed this life April 25, 1654.*

The roof of this nave is supported by several octangular pillars, forming eight arches, four on each side, and the like number of windows over them.

The upper part of the south aisle has been some chapel; part of the screen which inclosed it is still remaining, as also the place for the holy water:

over this part is a handsome gallery-pew belonging to the lord of the manor, and thereon are the arms of Davis and Gawsell, quarterly, impaling Berners—quarterly, Davis;—Gawsell; impaling quarterly—Berners. Against the north wall of this aisle, as you ascend to this pew, is a little mural monument, with the effigies of a man in armour, and his wife, on their knees upon cushions; the monument is adorned with two fluted columns, and a cornish, and the shield of Gawsell impaling Pratt, and this epitaph—*Here lyeth the body of Thomas Gawsell, esq; who married Susan, the 2d daughter of Gregory Pratt, of Ryston, esq. and had issue syx sons and seaven daughters, whereof there were two sons and syx daughters living at his death, and the said Thomas dy'd the second of Jan. A.D. 1600.*

—This monument was erected at the charge of Thomas Wolriche, of Cooling, in Suffolk, esq. and the above-named Susan, his wife. A shield is on the bottom—Wolriche impaling Pratt.

The chancel is of the same materials with the church, and is in length about 46 feet, 19 in breadth, lofty, and covered with reed. On the area here lay several grave-stones: At the west end, one with the arms of Davis and Gawsell, quarterly, impaling Berners,—*Here lyeth the body of Gregory Davis, esq; who died the 22d day of September, 1706, in the 35th year of his age, leaving two sons, Gregory, and John.*

On the right hand of this lies another, with the same arms,—*Bridget, the wife of Gregory Davis, esq. eldest daughter of Hatton Berners, esq. of St. Mary's-hall, dyed 16 of June, 1701, aged 27 years.*

On the left hand a third, inscribed—*To Gregorij Gawsell, Arm. obijt Martij 5to, An. Dom. 1656, Aetatis suæ 70.*

As

As you ascend lies a marble grave-stone, with the shield of Boteler, impaling Gawsell, and a brass plate—*To Thomæ Boteler, Arnigerj, antiquæ Botelorum familiæ in comitatu Hertfordiæ oriundj, an. salutis 1637, Ætatis suæ 67.*

Near to this are other grave-stones, in memory of the families of Gawsell and Davis.

A little higher lies a marble stone with a shield, Edgar impaling of Spelman, of Narburgh,—*To Elizabeth, the wife of Stephen Edgar, gent. one of the daughters of John Spelman, esq. of Narburgh-hall, who dyed the 1st day of March, 1679, aged 35 years.*

At the east end lie grave-stones,—*To Robert Sparrow, esq. alderman, and twice mayor of the corporation of King's Lynn, one of the sons of Robert Sparrow, B. D. late rector of this church, and of Jane his wife; he departed this life the 13th day of Dec. 1716, aged 75.*

Another,—*To Samuel Burkin, esq. who died July 20, 1726, aged 57.*

Adjoining to this, Lewis impales Cutler,—*Magdalena lecliffima, conjux Henricj Lewis, rect. de Rungton-Holme, hoc sub marmore quiescit, heroina, prosapia, ac pietate perinde clara. She was second daughter to sir Gervase Cutler, (of Stainburg-hall, in Yorkshire, kt. and bart. colonel for King Charles I. and slain at Pomfret-castle, June 25, 1645) by Magdalen 5th daughter to John earl of Bridgewater, by Frances 2d daughter of Ferdinando 5th earl of Derby, king in man, whose mother was daughter's daughter to Mary, second daughter to King Henry VII. of England, and once Queen to Lewis XII. king of France, she dyed March 8, 1682, and left*

two daughters, Magdalen and Elizabeth, Etat. suæ 45.

If women all were like to thee,

We men, for wives, should happy be.

Against the south wall, near the west end, is a small marble mural monument, with the effigies of a clergyman in his gown, as A. M. kneeling on a cushion, in an arch, supported by two pilasters of the Ionick order, with their capitals gilt with gold, a desk before him, and hands erect—on the summit, the arms of Freak on the basis,—*Here lyeth John Freak, A. M. some time fellow of Trinity college, Cambridge, rector of this parish 23 years, the son of John Freak, D. B. and archdeacon of Norwich, and son of Edmund Freak, lord bishop of Norwich, which John dyed January 20, 1628.*

On the south side, in the lowest window, are the arms of Besils, or Fitz-arms—Tendring—and in the upper window, on the same side, Butler. Here are three stone arches, where have been three stalls, or seats, in the wall, and a fourth for the holy water, now all worked up and plastered.

On the north side, in the lowest window, have been the effigies of the apostles, St. Paul, &c. with labels of the creed, now much defaced; on the summit of this window, the arms of Tony, and at the bottom of the window,—*Orate p'Dno. Rogero Tony, - - - - ,* which shews the antiquity of this window, he being rector of this church in the 9th of Edward III.

In the second window,—*Orate p'aiab; Rici Glad-delsene et Alicie, - - - - .*

In the upper window are the arms of Bartholomew, &c.

Near to the porch, which is against the south aisle, lie two grave-stones in the church-yard, with crosses pattee cut on them, resembling those of the knights templars, and one with a cross floral.

The old value was twenty-five marks,—Pence 8d.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 14l. 16s. 8d. and pays tenths, &c.

In the 41st of Henry III. Richard de Herlaw sued Robert de Watlington for messuages, lands, and the advowson of this church, in which family this advowson and manor (as we have observed) continued till the beginning of the reign of Edward I.

There were one hundred and forty communicants here in 1603.

In 1657 John Lane, A. M. was admitted rector by the commissioners appointed for the approbation of public preachers.

In 1670 James Davy, of Lynn, presented (*hac vice* patron) assignee of Robert Gawsell, esq. and in 1710 Edmund Rolfe, gent. presented.

In 1767, the Rev. Jermyn Pratt, brother of Edward Pratt, esq. of West Riston, was presented to this rectory by the late John Davis, esq.

The Kervilles, of Watlington, says Mr. Parkin, were a younger branch of the family of St. Mary

Wiggenhall, in Freebridge Marshland, and bore gules, three leopards heads, argent, jessant flowers de lys.

In this church of St. Mary Wiggenhall are several coats painted on the glas, of Kerville impaling Fincham, le Butler, Shouldham, Narburgh, &c.

Sir Henry Kerville, and his lady, are buried in the aforesaid church, under a stately monument, with their effigies; he died June 26, 1624; she March 6, 1624. On the monument are arms of Kerville impaling Plowden, Kerville impaling Fincham, and Kerville impaling le Butler, or Boteler.

About the time of Edward IV. John Gawsell, esq. held the manors of Wallington and Thorpland, and Woodleves, in Fordham; and lands in Shouldham-Thorpe, Wimbottisham, Stow, Fodderston, East Winch, Wiggenhall, &c. in Norfolk,—and Richard, his brother, lands in Fordham, Denver, Riston, Roxham, Upwell, Outwell, Tilney, &c. in Norfolk, and Littleport, in Cambridgeshire.

Thomas Gawsell, esq. son of John, sold Wallington and Thorpland to William Conningsby, esq. (afterwards a judge) in the 16th of Henry VIII.

Ursula, widow of Richard Gawsell, esq. occurs wife of William Butts, esq. in 1547; and they presented to this church several times; the last was in 1563.

Gregory Gawsell, esq. died single March 5, 1656, aged 70, and was buried in Watlington church. Susan, daughter and heir of his brother Edmund, second wife of sir John Davis, of Berecourt, in Berkshire

shire, had this manor, and left a son, Gregory Davis, esq. who married Bridget, eldest daughter of Hatton Berners, esq. of Wiggenhall, St. Mary's-Hall, and dying in 1706, aged 34, left a son, Gregory, who died July 9, 1710, aged 12 years, and a son, John Davis, esq. who married the daughter and co-heir of Philip Bedingfield, esq. she died without issue in 1749, at Bath, and her husband, John Davis, esq. at Watlington, 1778.

The village of Watlington lies on the great drove road from the fens towards Norwich, and the fairs in Norfolk. Watlington-Hall, the seat of Thomas Plestow, esq. is a handsome modern-built house, with a park, and beautiful plantations, &c. it is seen with much satisfaction from the turnpike-road on Totten-hill common.

WELNEY. We do not meet with any other account of this town than what is mentioned in Upwell and Outwell, the three being included, and understood, as being each a part of *Well*, as they are most commonly called.

This hamlet lies on the bank of the old river Ouse, or Well, which formerly had its *natural course* this way:—In it is a chapel-of-ease to Upwell, the Rev. Edward Pemberton being rector and patron.

The Old Bedford River, and New Bedford, or Hundred-foot, passes close by here: But this part of the country is the most dreary and ineligible to reside in; at least it so appears to us.

The Old Well, Ouse, or Croft river, from this downwards, divides the county of Norfolk from Cambridgeshire, and of course the chapel, and many

of the houses are in the latter. Here is a bridge and ferry to pass over towards Littleport, from which it is about five miles, *as the bird flies*, but may, for ought we know, be twenty by any carriage, or even bridle-road.

This part of the Bedford Level is principally drained by mills, which is esteemed a very expensive mode, and totally inadequate to the purpose:—But such has been the fascination and impotence of men and measures!

WERHAM, WIREHAM, or WEARHAM, in the book of Doomsday called WIGREHAM, taking its name from a stream, or run of water, issuing out of a pond in the midst of the town. In the reign of the Confessor, Toli was lord, who being deprived at the conquest, king William granted it to Rainold, son of Ivo, one of his Norman adventurers, with many other lordships in this county; when Toli was lord, it was valued at 100s. It was half a leuca long, and the same in breadth, and paid six-pence halfpenny to a 20s. gelt of the hundred.

The great possessions of Rainold came to the noble family of the earls of Clare, who were the capital lords of the town.

CAVENHAM MANOR. Jeffrey Fitz-piers, earl of Essex, held it in the reign of king John of the earl of Clare, and on his founding the priory of Shouldham, gave a moiety of this town to the said priory; in the 33d of Henry III. the prior had a charter for free warren; he had also free bull and boar, was patron of the church which was appropriated to the priory, with five acres of glebe land; had the amercements of brewers and bakers in his homage, and

and owed once a year, suit of court at Clare; and there belonged to him two windmills, the moiety of a watermill, also a messuage, &c. formerly of the fee of William Say, who held in capite.

After the dissolution, it was granted March 2, in the 36th of Henry VIII. to sir Edmund Bedingfield, of Oxburgh, knt. by the name of the manor and grainge of Cavenham, with the great tithes of Wereham and Stoke, to be held by the 40th part of a fee, and the payment of 3l. 17s. 11d. rent per ann. and in this family it remained till about the year 1718, when sir Henry Bedingfield conveyed it to Edward Nightingale, esq. of Kneeworth, in Cambridgeshire, and Edward Nightingale, esq. his grandson, is the present lord.

Cavenham grainge is about a mile north-east of the town of Wereham, and in the said parish; in 1570, the rent of assise of the free tenants was 4l. 4s. 10d. of the customary ones, 10l. 16s. 10d. ob. q.

The temporalities of the priory of Shouldham in 1428, for this manor here, and extending into Stoke and Wretton, were 32l. 4s. 9d. ob.

WEREHAM-HALL MANOR was antiently in separate tenures. In the 20th of Henry III. Robert Bardolph, and Thomas Reed, held the fourth part of a fee of the earl of Gloucester and Clare; Robert married Avice, (or, as some say, Lora) daughter and heir of John de Lound, lord of this manor, and by Avice, daughter and heir of Bardolph, it came by marriage to sir Ingelram Belet, knight of the bath, who died in the reign of Edward I. and it descended to Robert, his son.

In the 31st of that king, John de Bures, and Ralph de Alemania, conveyed lands by fine in this town, Crimplesham, Stoke, West-Dereham, Boughton, &c. to Robert Bardolph.

William de Wereham passed, by fine, messuages and lands in the said towns, &c. in the 7th of Edward II. to John of the Hall at Frenge; and in the following year, Robert Belet died seised of a fee and a half, held of the honor of Clare, in the said towns, &c. This William was probably descended from Walter, and Ralph de Wereham, who had a lordship here in Henry III's. time. In the 15th of Edward I. Robert de Long was lord.

In the 23d of Edward III. John de Benstead conveyed a moiety of this manor to John de Weasenham, and in the 31st, Ralph de Hinton sold to Richard Tooth two messuages, land, &c. in this town, and Stoke, from the heirs of Beatrix, his wife.

Sir Richard Walkfare held it in the 40th year of the said reign, for life, as part of the inheritance of John de Denham, son and heir of Avice Walkfare, daughter (probably) and heir of Belet, married, first to Denham's father; and in the 50th of that king this part was conveyed on Wednesday after the feast of St. Faith, by the trustees of John de Denham, to Richard Tooth, together with the manor of Wiron-hall, in Wretton.

From Tooth it came to Roger Davy, and from them (as in Boughton Overhall-manor) to sir Lewes Orrell, who conveyed this lordship, with that of Wiron-hall, to sir Thomas Lovell, knight of the garter; and in or about 1615, sir Francis Lovell, of East-Harling, conveyed it to sir Thomas Dereham: from

from that family it came to Stephen Edgar, gent. of Watlington, in 1652; his son Thomas sold it to Benjamin Dethick, esq. son of sir John Dethick, in 1682, whose son John Dethick, esq. conveyed the manor and demesne lands in 1751 (but not the hall) to John Heaton, esq. of London.

The family of Dethick was originally of Dethick-hall, in Derbyshire, and afterwards of Wormegay, in this hundred. Some of this family also were of Middleton, West Newton, and Harpley, in Freebridge-Lynn.

Robert Dethick, esq. was slain, with his son Thomas, on Palm-Sunday, 1460, in Towton-Field battle, in Yorkshire; his daughter and heir brought Dethick-hall to the Babington's.

Sir John Dethick was lord mayor of London in 1656, and mercer; his first wife was Ann, daughter of Francis Smallpiece, of Norwich, relict of Thomas Anguish, gent. by whom he had no issue surviving; he died at Tottenham, in Middlesex, where he had a country seat, in 1671, and was buried in the church of St. Andrew Undershaft, London, leaving a son and heir, by his second wife, Benjamin, who purchased this estate of Mr. Thomas Edgar.

WIRON-HALL stood in a close at the eastern part of Wereham, on the west side of the lane that leads to Wretton, commonly called Stoneoaks Close, but more probably Stokes-Close; it takes its name from a run or, stream of water, here arising, and the manor extends into Wretton and Stoke. In the 16th of Henry III. Stephen de Stokes held it, and granted, by fine, the advowson of the church of Wretton to the abbot of West Dereham, who had a moiety

moiety only, as it seems. Warine Goseman, and his barons, held also, about the same time, another moiety: Stokes held his by a quarter of a fee, and Goseman his by the 40th part of a fee, the capital lord being the earl of Gloucester and Clare.

In the 15th of Edward II. Robert de Sale had an interest herein, and in the 8th of Edward III. his trustee granted, by fine, to Nicholas Gamage, a moiety of this manor, which Guy de St. Clare held in dower.

John Flynn, in the 20th of Edward III. was lord of the part which John de Stokes formerly held, and paid 4s. towards the making that king's eldest son a knight: in the 24th of the said King, John Bray, and Catherine, his wife, daughter of John Flynn, and Christian, sister of Catherine, passed it, by fine, to John de Weasenham, citizen of London; after this, the trustees of John de Denham, &c. conveyed it to Richard Tooth, of Wereham; from Tooth it came to Davy, &c. and John Heaton, esq. is the present lord.

The leet is in the lord of the hundred, and, with Wretton and Stoke, is 2s 6d.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, has a nave that is cambered, plastered, and covered with reed, with a south aisle covered with lead, a four-square low tower, with four pinnacles of free-stone, and one bell; it is about forty feet long, and forty broad.

At the west end of the nave lie several grave-stones, in memory of the Adamsons; and at the east end two grave-stones, on which have been the effigies, on brass plates, of persons in their winding sheets,

sheets, now reaved. At the east end of the south aisle is a mural monument of marble, &c. with the arms of Adamson, impaling Clark.—*In a vault near this place lies interred the body of Christopher Adamson, of this parish, gent. who died September 25, 1744, aged 71 years.*—*In the same vault lies the body of Martha, the wife of John Heaton, of London, gent. and daughter of the above-named Christopher Adamson, and Martha, his wife, who died 15 December, 1743, aged 33 years.*—*In the same vault lies also the body of Susannah Adamson, the daughter of Mr. John Crutchfield, citizen of London, and Susannah his wife, and wife of Benjamin Adamson, one of the sons of the above-mentioned Christopher Adamson, and Martha, his wife, who died March 25, 1742, aged 27 years.* On this are also the arms of Heaton, impaling Adamson; and Adamson, impaling Crutchfield.

The chancel is about twenty-six feet long, and seventeen broad, covered with reed.

On the pavement lies a stone in memory of—
John D'Artigues, curate of this church, who died in 1744.

The rectory, with the manse and four acres of land, were valued at ten marks. Peter-pence 13d.

Gilbert earl of Clare, lord of this town, gave the tithe of his demesne lands in the reign of king Stephen to the priory of Clare, in Suffolk; this portion was valued in 1428 at 40s. per ann. Geoffrey Fitz-Piers, lord, on his founding the priory of Sholdham, gave the advowson of the church (then a rectory) to the said priory, which being also at that time appropriated thereto, became a curacy, and was served by a canon of that convent. On the dissolution the great

great tithes were granted, with the manor of Cavenham, to sir Edmund Bedingfield, of Oxburgh, from which family they passed to Edward Nightingale, esq. as is before observed. The small tithes continued in the crown till granted September 14, in the 18th of Elizabeth, to Adara Bland, &c. whose son conveyed his right to Francis Mundford, esq.

In the reign of James I. forty-three communicants were returned to be in the parish.

Lionel Life held these vicarial tithes in the reign of William III. after him Mr. Warren, who conveyed them to Roger Pratt, esq. of Rifton, whose son, Edward Pratt, esq. names the curate.

William de Say, father of Beatrix, wife of Geoffrey Fitz-Piers, earl of Essex, in whose right he was lord of this town, gave lands, &c. here to Castle-Acre priory.

Several others gave lands, &c. in this parish to religious houses.

In the church was the guild of St. Margaret, and by the town pond is a well dedicated to that saint. Wi, or Wye, is a British word, signifying water; in Wales, and in Derbyshire, &c. are rivers of that name, also a considerable town in Kent.

The PRIORY and MANOR of WINWALOE. It was founded by the family of the earls of Clare, and stood about a mile north-east of Wereham town. He was a British saint*, and flourished about the year

550,

* Lobineaux Histor. de Britan. Tom. 1. . . Commentar. Doctor Smith in Becl. Martyrol. p. 362.

350, an abbot, and canonized. The first account we meet with of it is in the 7th year of king John, when the earls of Clare and Gloucester were found to hold a court here, (*apud Scu' Wynewalum*) and in the reign of Henry III. Margaret de Stradset gave and released to West Dereham abbey all the lands which were her father's, lying in the fields, surrounding the church of *St. Winwaloch*, comperting on the common of Wereham: it was a cell to the abbey of Mounstroll, or Musterol, in the diocese of Amiens, in France, of the order of St. Benedict. The patronage of this cell was in the earls of Clare, and the prior, about this time, held sixty acres of land here, in pure alms, of the gift of the earls of Gloucester and Clare.

The earls of Clare had a prison in their lordship here, for the honor of Clare; many actions and suits were here tried, and was looked on as a grievance; and the jury in the 3d of Edward I. presented it, being to the prejudice of the king, and county of Norfolk. The abbot and convent of Mustrol sold and conveyed it in 1321 to Hugh Scarlet, of Lincoln, and he conveyed it to the lady Elizabeth de Burgo.

Edward III. granted license April 9, anno 10, to the lady Elizabeth de Burgo, sister and co-heir of Gilbert, earl of Clare, to give and assign seven mesuages, lands, &c. in Wereham, Boughton, Stoke, West Dereham, Barton, and Narford, the fair of *St. Winewaloe*, in Norfolk, to the abbot and convent of West Dereham, to find a chaplain to celebrate divine service in the chapel of *Winewaloe*, for the soul of Gilbert earl of Clare, &c. daily, *for ever*.

Edmund

Edmund de Mortimer, earl of March, &c. confirmed the said grant, with this proviso, That the chaplain aforesaid be a secular chaplain, and not a regular, and that the service in the abbey of West Dereham be still continued, and not set aside on account of this service in the chantry of the chapel of *St. Winwaloe*, for the souls of Gilbert, &c. dated anno 45, Edward III.—The abbot of West Dereham kept a court here in the 17th of Henry VI. and 2d of Edward IV.

At the general dissolution of religious houses it came to the crown, and on the 13th of September, in the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, was granted, with all its appurtenances, to Thomas Guybon, esq. and William Mynn, to be held in free socage of the honor of East Greenwich. William Guybon, gent. conveyed it in the 9th of Elizabeth to Francis Munde-ford, esq. of Wereham. Thomas Methwold, of Thomson college, gent. sold it in 1633 to sir John Hare, who kept a court here in the said year, and the late sir George Hare, bart. his immediate heir, died lord.

What remains of this priory is a building chiefly of free-stone, about 35 feet long; and 30 broad, and from its scite (standing east and west) seems to be the old chapel; in a writing, about 1570, we find it wrote *Wynhold Capella*; it is now a farm-house, and here is annually a fair kept on the 3d of March, St. Winwaloe's day, of note for the sale of many horses, cows, &c. and this being generally a cold and course season of the year, the storms at this time are commonly called—Whinwall storms—and this old rhyme becomes frequently quoted in the neighbourhood:

*First comes David, next comes Chad,
Then comes Whinwall, as if he was mad.*

The temporalities of West Dereham, with this priory, in Wereham, Wretton, and Stoke, were valued at 7l. 2s. 8d. for lands and a mill, &c. in 1428.

A little to the west of the church of Wereham is a well, called St. Margaret's well; in the time of popery, on the day of that Saint, people diverted themselves with cakes and ale, music and dancing, alms and offerings were brought, and vows made at such like fainted wells, and called *well-worship*.

The village of Wereham lies on the post road leading from London, ninety miles, to Lynn-Regis, twelve miles. With respect to the generality of villages in Norfolk, it is rather handsome, being pleasantly situated, and well built.

In 1746 the Rev. Jermyn Pratt was presented to the consolidated curacy of Wereham with Wretton.

WESTBRIGGS. This little, and now almost depopulated village, adjoins to Wormegay; in the survey it was wrote Weltbruge. Turcheill was lord in the Confessor's time, but the Conqueror gave it to Hermerus de Ferrariis, and it was always valued at 6os. This village is five furlongs long, and three broad, and pays 2d. to the gelt, when the hundred is assed at 20s.

Under the invasions of Hermerus, we find that in Westbriggs he had seized on three free-men, who had half a carucate, valued at 5s. Of these his predecessors had only the protection, and St. Benedict (of Ramsey) had the soc; also, in the same village on eight free-men, who were under protection,

T

the

the soc, and foldage of the lord, with 10 acres, valued at 9s.

This town, after the said Hermerus, was held by William de Wormegay, Reginald de Warren, and the lords Bardolph, of which barony it was a member. In the 38th of Henry III. William lord Bardolph had a grant of free-warren here, &c. and in Wormegay. On the attainder of Thomas lord Bardolph, Henry IV. in his 9th year, gave it, with the barony of Wormegay, to Thomas Beaufort, his brother; after the death of this Thomas (duke of Exeter) it descended as is related in Wormegay, when on the death of William viscount Beaumont, who died without issue, and his lady, it came to the crown, and Edward VI. gave it in his first year to John Dudley, duke of Northumberland, who in the 6th year of the said king, had license to alienate it to Thomas Mildmay. His son, Thomas, was lord in the 9th of Elizabeth, and sold it in the 23d of the said queen to Francis Gawdy, esq. afterwards lord chief justice of the common pleas.

In the 16th of Elizabeth, concealed lands and tenements in the tenure of H. Patrick, W. Butts, J. Drake, and William Porter, in this town, Setch, Row, Tottenhill, Fodderston, and Shouldham-Thorpe, were granted to Ed. Dyer, and H. Cressiner.

The church of Westbriggs is more generally understood as Tottenhall church, and is dedicated to St. Botolph; it is a small edifice, with a nave and chancel; the nave is covered with lead, the chancel with tile; at the west end of the nave is a little four-square tower of ragg-stone, &c. embattled with free-stone, a shaft covered with lead, but here is no bell; over the door, on the south side, as you enter the church, is a cross like that of a knight templar.

In

In the chancel, on the pavement, within the communion rails, lies a marble grave-stone, with the shield of Taylor, impaling Steward,—quartering Burley, and Walkfare.—Over all, in an escutcheon of pretence, Stuart.—*In memory of Mary, wife of Samuel Taylor, esq. of King's-Lynn, the youngest daughter of sir Robert and Dame Elizabeth Steward, mother of eleven children; four of them died before her, and are buried in St. Margaret's church, King's-Lynn; Sarah, the youngest, living but five days, was buried with her in this grave; she died 11 March, 1709, in the 40th year of her age.*

Adjoining to this lies another marble grave-stone, with the quartered coat of Steward in a lozenge, and —*Elizabetha, viri ornatissimi Roberti Stuartii, equitis aurati, dotaria, et antiquissima et clarissima Stuartarum prosapia, stirpe vere regia, Insula Eliensi oriunda, obt. 19 Nov. An. Salut. 1692.*

On the right side of this another marble grave-stone, with the quartered coat of Steward in a lozenge.—*In memory of Sarah, eldest daughter of sir Robert and Dame Elizabeth, who died September 23, 1710, aged 58 years.*

On the pavement of the chancel lies a stone—*In memory of Edward Miller, steward to the Lady Steward 45 years, who died 12 November, 1715.*

On the pavement of the said chancel lie also two marble grave-stones; one inscribed to—*Samuel Tayler, armiger, &c. Desideratissimus obt. . . . sepult. 10. . . . Ao. aet. 59, Dni. 1727.—Andreas, primogenitus parenti. The other—To Simon Tayler generosus (Samuelis juxta depositi) obt. Jul. 12. Ao. aet. 38, Dom. 1735.*

William de Wormegay, who lived in the reigns of king Stephen, and Henry II. &c. gave, by deed without date, to the monks of Castle-Acre, the church of Westbriggs, with the liberties and appurtenances, &c. and the patronage of this church remained with the abbey till the 13th of Edward I. An exchange was made on William lord Bardolph's grant of the church of North Burlingham St. Peter's to the prior, and this advowson was given to that lord.

William de Warren, lord of Wormegay, who lived in the reigns of Richard I. and king John, &c. by deed without date, gave to the church of St. Botolph, of Westbriggs, three acres and half a rood of land, in a field called Fordhill Wong, of that part which lies next the south, in exchange for three acres and half a rood which did belong to the aforesaid church, lying in a field called Long-land Wong.

In 1367, the rector was presented by queen Philippa, by grant from the king, as guardian to William, son and heir of John lord Bardolph; taxed at seventeen marks: And in 1411, sir Thomas Beaufort, knt. admiral and chancellor of England, presented.

On the 18th of July, 1416, this church was appropriated to the priory of the Holy Crofs and St. Mary of Wormegay, on the gift of Thomas earl of Dorchester, on condition they supply the cure by one of their canons, or find a sufficient chaplain; and a yearly pension of 20d. was paid by the prior, &c. out of it, to the prior, &c. of Norwich. In 1468, when the priory of Wormegay was united to the priory of Pentney on account of the fires, inundations, wars, pestilences, poverty of the land, and repairs of the banks, this church, as part of the possessions of the priory of Wormegay, came to that of

of Pentney, and a pension of 10s. per ann. was granted to the bishop of Norwich.

On the dissolution of Pentney, this rectory came to the crown, and so continued till the reign of queen Elizabeth, when it was granted to the bishop of Ely and his successors, on an exchange of lands, &c. between that queen and the see of Ely, and is held of the said bishop by leave; Andrew Taylor, esq. of Beechamwell, was the late impropriator.

The temporalities of the prior of Wormegay here were valued at 19s. 2d. in 1428;—the spiritualities of the said prior at seventeen marks.

In 1557, Robert Morley was collated by the bishop of Norwich to the church of Westbriggs *cum* Tottenhill.

In 1639, Richard Urmeston was presented by the king, by lapse, to the church and rectory of Westbriggs *cum* Tottenhill: how these presentations happened we cannot account for; at present it is, as observed, an impropriation, and served by a stipendiary curate. The curate, in 1603, returned one hundred and ten communicants.

WIMBOTSHAM, or WIMBOTTISHAM, at the general survey called Winebotesham, and Winebodesham, from its scite, a dwelling by the water.

ABBOT of RAMSEY'S MANOR. King Edgar gave this manor, with one in Downham, into which it extended, to this abbey; in the Conqueror's time it consisted of two carucates of land, &c. valued at 4l. per ann. but at the survey at 3l.

In the 35th of Henry III. the abbot had a charter for free-warren in all his demesne lands. At this town the gaol for the hundred of Clackclose, which belonged to the abbot, as lord of the hundred, was kept; and in 1258 William Brito, one of the king's judges, held by the king's writ a gaol delivery of many robbers, &c. taken in and without the abbot's liberty. In the 3d of Edward I. this manor, with that of Hilgay, the market of Downham, and the hundred and half of Clackclose, were of ten marks per ann. value to the abbot, and afterwards this manor alone was valued at twenty marks per ann.

In the reign of Henry V. John Bekewell, steward[†] to Thomas Botterwick, abbot of Ramsey, accounted for 14l. 3s. 10d. per ann. the issues thereof. On the dissolution of abbies it came to the crown, and Henry VIII. in his 36th year, gave it, with the advowson of the rectory of Downham, to Robert Miller, gent. to be held by the 40th part of a knight's fee; and in the 1st of queen Mary, Miller had license to alienate it to John Walpole, esq. of Colkirk, Launditch hundred, afterwards serjeant at law; and on May 16, anno 16th of Elizabeth, William Walpole, (of Fittleworth, in Sussex, and of Gray's-Inn, London,) conveyed it to Francis Gawdy, afterwards a knight, and chief judge of the common pleas, whose daughter and heir, Elizabeth, being married to sir William Newport, alias Hatton, had by him Frances, daughter and heir, married to sir Robert Rich, (afterwards earl of Warwick), from whom it came by purchase to sir Ralph Hare, of Stow-Bardolph, in or about the 9th of James I. in which family it remains

[†] The abbot's steward here was anciently styled *Præpositus villaæ*.

mains, sir George Hare, bart. being the late lord; and he dying without issue, one of his sisters and co-heirs brought this lordship by marriage to the lately deceased Rev. Dr. Thomas Moore, who also died without issue. Sir Thomas Harris, knt. of Finchley, in Middlesex, married the other sister of sir George Hare, bart.

INGALDESTHORP'S MANOR. William earl Warren had on the conquest lands, &c. valued at 40s. which twenty-four free-men held in the Confessor's time, by soccage of the abbey of Ramsey, and constituted this manor here, and in Downham.

About the reign of Henry II. Baldwin appears to have an interest herein, and payed one mark per ann. rent for lands of Richard de Balliol. In the 13th of Henry III. a fine was levied between Roger de Frevil, and Hamon Lanvese, of one carucate of land here conveyed to Roger; after this, in the 41st of the said king, it appears to be in the family of Ingaldeshorp, Isabella, widow of Thomas de Ingaldeshorp, being then found to hold the fourth part of a fee of the earl Warren. In the 46th of Edward III. sir William de Ingaldeshorp died possessed of it, valued then at 10l. per ann. and in the 3d of Henry IV. it was held by the lady Eleanor Ingaldeshorp.

Sir Edmund de Ingaldeshorp was the last heir male of that family, who was lord, and on his death it came to Isabel, his daughter and heir, who was married first to John Neville, marquis Montacute, and after to sir William Norris, knt. and in the 2d of Henry VII. mandamus's were awarded to find out the lands whereof the aforesaid Isabel died seised in the 16th of Edward IV. when her five daughters, by the marquis, were her heirs; one of whom, Isabel,

was married to sir William Hudleston, of Sawston, in Cambridgeshire, who in her right was lord of this manor; and in the 22d of Henry VIII. sir John Hudleston died lord.

In 1574 Nicholas Hare, esq. was possessed of it, and presented to the church, and in this family it continues, united with Ramsey manor.

TONWELL MANOR. Hermerus de Ferrariis at the conquest seized on forty acres of land here, held by three free-men in the time of the Confessor, which constituted this lordship; this town, with Stow, are said to be one leuca in length, and half a one in breadth, and to pay 16d. at a 20s. gelt. The possessions of Hermerus descended to the lords Bardolph, of Wormegay, and became part of that honor, or barony, and William lord Bardolph, in the 38th of Henry III. had a grant of free-warren here. In the reign of Henry VI. John Tonwell, senior, was lord, and held it of the aforesaid honor, and payed a quit rent for lands which he held here of the abbot of Ramsey. In 1500 Peter Blake died possessed of it; and his nephew, Jasper Blake, died lord in 1547. In the 18th of James I. Roger Pratt, gent. held it; after this we meet with no further account of it, being soon after (as we conceive) joined to the above-mentioned lordship.

The temporalities of the abbot of Ramsey were, in the reign of Henry VI. valued here at 18l. 16s. 8d. the spiritualities of the said abbot at 20s. being a portion out of the rectory; this was given Sept. 15, in the 3d of Elizabeth, to Edward Warner, and Ralph Shelton.

The

The church of Wimbottisham is dedicated to St. Mary, is a single pile of ragg-stone and boulder, covered with reed, with a broad square tower of the aforesaid materials, embattled and coped with free-stone, with a carved pinnacle at each corner, in which hang three bells; it is in length about fifty-two feet, and about twenty-two in breadth; the roof is camered, and impanelled with oak, on the mitres of which are several small antique heads of saints, kings, &c. and at the east end the bust (as it seems) of the Virgin, with a legend.

On the head of an old seat of oak are the arms of Spelman, of Narburgh, impaled by Blake.

In the church were formerly the arms of Ingalesthorp impaling sable, a fess dauncy, and three mullets in chief, pierced, argent.

The chancel is about twenty-five feet long, and seventeen broad, and the whole is covered with reed.

In 1473 the rector was presented by sir William Norris. The church at this time was valued at ten marks.

In 1569 Thomas Fretwell was patron, *hac vice*, by a grant from John L'Estrange, gent. and in 1574 Nicholas Hare, esq. presented.

In 1603 the rector certified that there were 134 communicants here.

In 1764, Nov. 28, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Moore, as patron, in right of his wife, presented himself to this rectory; and on November 16, 1769, this church was consolidated with Stow-Bardolph.

This

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 5l. 6s. 8d. and being accounted in clear value 39l. per ann. is discharged of first fruits and tenths; the synodals are 2s. procurations 16d.—Old value was ten marks, Peter-pence 13d.

William, chamberlain to William the second earl Warren, gave the tithe of his land here to the abbey of Castle-Acre; Roger, son of Wimer, the sewer, a dependent of the said earl, gave and confirmed his tithe in this town, which his father, and his mother, Gilla, had given to the said abbey.

The village of Wimbottisham lies on the south side of the turnpike road leading from Lynn-Regis, ten miles, to Downham, two miles, Ely, Cambridge, and London.

WORMEGAY, WERMEGAY, WIRMYGAY, or WORMGAY, vulgarly called RUNGAY, and was wrote in Doomsday-book WIERMEGAI. Hermerus de Ferrariis, a powerful Norman baron, had the grant of this lordship on the expulsion of Turchetill, who had large possessions before the Conquest; Hermerus takes place in the survey before the abbots, &c. and had forty-two manors given him in the following hundreds:—Sixteen in Clackclose; ten (including what he had also seized on and invaded) in Freebridge; one in Shropham; three in Launditch; eleven in Mitford; and one in Humbleyard, including, as we have observed, what he seized on, as the survey sets forth.

In Turchetill's time this lordship had a church; the whole, valued at 60s. per ann. was five furlongs long, and two broad, and paid 2d. to a 20s. gelt.

As

As the lords of this barony were chiefly of considerable note in the history of this kingdom, we shall be the more particular in our account of them.

Hermerus's descendants, according to the Norman custom, took the name of de Wormegay from this lordship, which was the head manor of a barony. The first that we meet with (and probably son of Hermerus) was Richard de Wormegay, father of William de Wormegay, who in the 7th or 8th year of Henry II. accounted for 20l. 10s. belonging to his barony, and in the 12th of that king was found to hold fourteen knights fees and a half in capite, also two knights fees of the old feoffment, of Hugh Bigot. Soon after this William died, anno 14 Henry II. in which year Reginald de Warren, second son of William II. and brother of William III. earls Warren and Surrey, accounted for 9l. 10s. for this barony, (and had a good part of his scutage pardoned) on the marriage of Maud, the king's daughter, to Henry duke of Saxony. This Reginald married Alice, daughter and heir of William de Wormegay, in the 14th and 15th of that king: he was a justice itinerant in Norfolk, Suffolk, Surry, &c. and in the 20th, one that was appointed to levy tallages in the king's demesnes of England; and gave to the canons of Southwark the church of Plumpton, in Sussex.

Reginald had William de Warren, who paid scutage for this barony in the 31st of Henry II. and in 14th of Richard I. paid 14l. 5s. to the king's redemption. In the register of Bury abbey is an agreement between this William and the abbot, who claimed 65s. rent, and two thousand eels, for the mills between Wormegay and Westbriggs, the gift of William's ancestors, who on a grant of lands here, in Tottenhill, &c. released the said rent in the court

court of exchequer, before Richard, the king's treasurer, &c. barons of the exchequer, &c.

He married, first, Beatrix, and secondly, Milisent, widow of Richard Lord Montfitchet, and gave, in the 5th of king John four hundred marks for licence to marry her, and dying Ao. 11th of that king, left Beatrix, his daughter and heir, by his first wife, and then relict of Doun, or Dodo de Bardolph. The said Beatrix, in the aforesaid year, gave three thousand marks to have her dower of Bardolph's lands, and seisin of her inheritance, and that she might not be distrained to marry again, and that the debts owing to the king, from her father, should be paid out of the goods and chattels belonging to her father, and of Milisent, his wife, which he died possessed of. William, her father, was a benefactor to the canons of Southwark, where he was buried. Reginald, his eldest son, died before him, without issue.

In the 19th of king John, Beatrix, widow of Dodo lord Bardolph, was the wife of Hubert de Burgh, the king's lord-chamberlain, and afterwards earl of Kent, and in the 17th, Hubert held it in right of his wife, lately deceased.

In the 27th of Henry III. William lord Bardolph, son and heir of Dodo and Beatrix, had livery of this honor, which the earl of Kent late held for life, and the sheriff had authority to deliver it to him, and in the following year the grant of a market every Monday, and a fair.

On the marriage of the king's daughter to the emperor, he answered for fourteen knights fees and an half, belonging to his barony; in the 38th of that

that king, had a grant of free-warren for all the manors belonging to it, and in the 55th it was found that seven hundred acres of fen, marsh, &c. in this town, Tottenhill, &c. belonging to this lord, were drowned by the raising of a causeway. This seems to be now what is called Setch causeway, and made about that time.

In the 3d of Edward I. he claimed the leet, assise, waif, pillory, fair, trebuchet, and held fifteen knights fees and a half in capite, and in the following year died, leaving William his son and heir, who married in his father's life Juliana, daughter and heir of Hugh de Gourney, a baron of the realm; and in the 43d of Henry III. he paid 184l. and two hogsheads of wine, for debts due to that king, and the manor was extended at his father death to 45l. 11s. 10d. per ann.

This lord had several summons as a baron to serve that king anno 5, and 10, &c. and in the 15th to a parliament at Gloucester, by Edmund earl of Cornwall, during the king's absence, and died in 1289; Juliana survived him, and on her death, in the 23d of the said king, Hugh was found to be her son and heir, aged forty years.

Hugh, lord Bardolph, took to wife Isabella, daughter and heir of Robert Aguillon, of Addington, in Surrey, a parliamentary baron; he was the twenty-second peer who subscribed the letter to the pope in the 29th of Edward I. signifying that the kingdom of Scotland was not of his fee, and that the pope had no jurisdiction in temporal affairs; on his death, in the 32d of that king, it was found that he paid 7s. monthly for castle-guard to the castle of Norwich, and that Thomas was his son and heir. Isabel survived him, and in the 6th year

of

of Edward II. released, by deed, to sir Michael de Ponyngs, knt. and Margery, his wife, all her right in the manor of Bures, in Suffolk, dated at Ber-camp, in Suffex, on the feast of the annunciation ; the seal is of red wax, the impress a cinquefoil, each leaf of it charged with a lys, the cinquefoils being her husband's arms, and gules, a lys argent, her paternal arms.

Lord Bardolph, son and heir of Hugh, or, as some say, son of William lord Bardolph, son of Hugh, was created knight of the bath in the 34th of Edward I. with the prince of Wales ; in the 15th of Edward II. &c. had, with sir John de Thorpe, and sir John de Haward, the guard of Norfolk and Suffolk, and of the sea coasts ; he married Agnes, daughter of lord Grandison, and dying in the 3d of Edward III. was buried in the priory of Shelford, in Nottinghamshire, leaving John his son and heir, who, in the 10th of that king, married Elizabeth de Burgo, or Burgh, 3d daughter and co-heir of Gilbert earl of Gloucester and Clare, by his wife Joan de Acres, sister of Edward I. called de Burgh from her first husband, John de Burgo, lord of Connaught, in Ireland.

Edward III. in his 19th year, sent his writ, witnessed by Lionel, his son, then custos of England, to this lord John, then a banneret, to attend him beyond sea, with all his retinue, and in his 21st year, June 14th, he had a summons to repair immediately to the king, at the siege of Calais, not to stay 'till his horses were ship'd, but to be there before the French raised the siege, which they daily threatened.

Several genealogists make Elizabeth, the wife of this John lord Bardolph, to be the daughter and heir

heir of Roger D'Amorey, an Irish lord, 3d husband of Elizabeth de Burgo, daughter of the earl of Clare aforesaid, and what seems to confirm this is the grant of Edward II. on December 1st, Ao. 12, at York, (in the parliament there) of divers manors to this Roger, and Elizabeth, his wife, and niece to that king, and the heirs of her body, and after his death they went to Elizabeth, daughter of the said Roger, who married John lord Bardolph, as appears from the escheats rolls, in the 3d of Henry VI. and this Elizabeth died in the 51st of Edward III. 1377.

In 1353, this lord had a grant from pope Clement of a portable altar to perform mass at, which, as a curiosity, we have here annexed:

“ Clemens Eps. f. f'vor. Dej. dil'co filio nob'lj
“ viro Johi. Bardolf militi, et dil'ce in Xto. filie no-
“ bili mulieri, Elizabethe ej; uxori Norwicen. dioc.
“ fal'm. et aplica' bn. sincere devotions affect. qu. ad
“ nos et Romanum geris ecc. n. i'digne mer't. ut
“ petic'o'ib; v'ris, &c. quas ex devoc'o'is fervore,
“ p'dire conspicim; qua'ta' cu. D'o. possum; favor-
“ ab'ter annuam. Hinc est q. nos v'ris devot. sup-
“ plicat'o'ib; inclinatj; ut liceat vot. haber. altar.
“ portabile c. reve'ncia et honore sup' quod in locis
“ ad hoc convenietib; et honest. possit qui'lt vestu.
“ p. p'p'u. facerdote' ydoneu' missa' et alia divina
“ officia f'n juris alienj p'judic' in v'ra p'sencia fa-
“ cere celebrarj, devoc'o'j v're, tenore p'sent. indul-
“ gem; nulli vero o'i'o ho'i'u. liceat hanc paginam
“ n're concession. i'fringere v'l ej; ausu temerar. co-
“ hibere si quis aut hoc attemptar. p'sumpliit indig-
“ nac'o'em o'ipotent. Dei et Beator Petri et Paulj
“ Ap'lor. ej; se nov' it incurfuru. Dat. Av'ion. VII.
“ Id. Augusti Pont. n'ti. Ao. undecimo.” — Every
Romish

Romish priest has in England, at present, such an altar to carry about with him.

In the 28th of the said king, he was one of those barons of parliament who signed the letters of proxy to Richard Wymondesfold, &c. to agree on their parts to what should be accorded before the pope between the envoys of England and France, about settling their differences; and in the 33d, he was appointed by the king to meet at Westminster on Sunday next after the feast of St. Martin, to be of counsel to Thomas of Woodstock, his son, (earl of Gloucester) whom the king, being then at Sandwich, in Kent, ready to embark for France, had named custos of England. In the 45th of Edward III. on the 3d of August, this John lord Bardolph died, when it appears that he held the manor of Wormegay, a water-mill there, and a pool called Le Ley, with the appurtenances, &c. together with the honor of Wormegay in capite, by barony, paying to Norwich castle yearly 7s. for castle-guard, and wait-fee of the said castle 4od. at St. Michael, and 4od. at Easter, to which manor and honor were belonging about twenty knights fees, viz. two knights fees held of the earl-marshall, eight knights fees and a quarter of the earl Warren, and nine knights fees and an half of the bishop of Norwich. Besides these possessions, he died seised of the manor of Clopton, in Suffolk; those of Burgh, Hekinton, Cathorpe, &c. in Lincolnshire; Stoke-Bardolph, &c. in Nottinghamshire, as parcel of his barony of Shelford, to which, as it is said, there were twenty-nine knights fees belonging, and William was his son and heir, aged 14, then in ward with sir Michael Poynings, having purchased it of queen Philippa.

This

This William lord Bardolph married Agnes, daughter of the said sir Michael; and on the 13th of June, in the 8th of Richard II. was summoned by writ to meet the king, with his horses, and arms, and whole service, on the 14th of July following, to march into Scotland, against the Scots; he died in the following year, and was buried amongst the carmelite friars at Lynn, in the choir. Thomas was his son and heir, aged 17 years; Agnes, his wife, survived him, and was afterwards married to sir Thomas Mortimer, kt. and in the 21st of Richard II. he held this manor, &c. in her right.

Thomas lord Bardolph, son of William and Agnes, gave his vote, with some other lords, for the safe custody of the late king Richard II. In the 1st of Henry IV. his wife was Avice, or Anne, daughter of Ralph lord Cromwell, of Tatsfall castle, in Lincolnshire; being in arms against Henry IV. in his 9th year, and wounded in an engagement at Bramham-moor, in Yorkshire, he was beheaded, and attainted in parliament; he left two daughters and coheirs, Anne and Joan; Anne married first sir William Clifford, and after sir Reginald Cobham. Joan was the wife of sir William Phelip, son of sir John Phelip, of Dennington in Suffolk, treasurer of the household and chamberlain to Henry V. whom he attended in the wars of France, and had the chief conduct of that king's melancholy funeral. Sir William Clifford was knight of the garter.

On the attainder of the aforesaid Thomas lord Bardolph, anno 9th of Henry IV. May 8, this lordship, or barony, was granted with all its knights fees to Thomas Beaufort, the king's brother, afterwards duke of Exeter, who dying without issue in the 5th of Henry VI. the said king, on the petition of sir

U

William

William Phelip, and Joan, afterwards gave it by patent to them, and he died lord Bardolph.

Ann, the other daughter and coheir of Thomas lord Bardolph, dying without issue, anno 32 of the said king, this honor descended to John viscount Beaumont, who married Elizabeth, only daughter and heir of sir William Phelips, lord Bardolph.

This John lord Beaumont was the first viscount in England, and in great favor with the king, and for his continued services had many privileges allowed him in this town, &c. with the grant of a capital mes-suage in St. Bennet's Paul's Wharf, (Thames street, London) called New-Inn, in the 27th of Henry VI. and in the following year created (June the 8th) lord great chamberlain, but at the battle at Northampton, on July 9th, anno 38, was slain, leaving William his son and heir, who married, first, Elizabeth, daughter of sir Richard Scroop, brother to the lord Scroop, of Bolton, in Yorkshire, and after her death, Joan, daughter of Humphrey Stafford, duke of Buckingham, and being engaged in the same royal cause as his father, was taken prisoner at the bloody battle of Towton in 1460, but making an escape on the 14th of November, in the 1st of Edward IV. was attainted, and this manor was granted in the 5th of this king to John Neville, marquis Mountacute, who being slain in the battle of Barnet, it was given to Anthony Woodville, the queen's brother, who possessed it till he was beheaded at Pomfret castle.

William lord Beaumont abovementioned, on the accession of Henry VII. to the crown, was restored in blood, and on December 11th, 1495, John de Vere, earl of Oxford, had a grant, by letters patent, of the custody

custody of the person of this lord, honors, manors, &c. during his life.

This William viscount Beaumont, lord Comyn, Bardolph, Phelip, and Erpingham, (as he is styled) died December 20, 1507, without issue, and lies buried under a noble monument at the east end of the chancel of Wivenhoe, in Essex, with his effigy in armour, where also his second lady, who re-married the earl of Oxford, was interred on her death, June 16, 1537, when this manor came to the crown.

Henry VIII. on July 3. in his 32d year, conveyed to John Dethick, Esq; many pastures, marshes, and lands, with foldage, in the tenure of John Fincham, and a fishery in the water of Eye, in the tenure of the prior of Pentney; by which it appears that the river here was called the Eye, and not the Nar*. The said king in his 36th year, May 5. grants to him the park of Wormegay, lands called the Hall-yard, with the mill, part of the said manor, and in the following year licence from him to alienate the scite of the manor, called the Hall-yard, the Hall-croft, and the Hall-sen, to Bartholomew Plumstead, and his heirs.

Edmund Dethick, son of John Dethick, died April 6th, 1565, seised of a capital messuage, park, and lands, held of the king in capite, by the 20th part of a knight's fee; a messuage called *Le-house at the Oak*, with lands and marshes held by the 40th part of a fee; and Christopher was his son and heir.

U 2

In

* This river is also named Sandringham, and Lynn-flin, in some old maps; but was not called the Nar till very lately, when his name was very properly adopted in an act of parliament for improving the navigation up to Narborough, Narford, and Westacre.

In the 15th of Elizabeth, B. Plumstead alienated the scite of the manor, &c. to Richard Wilcocks and William Guybon, but the manor itself was in the crown till Edward VI. granted it, November 16th, anno 5, to John duke of Northumberland, who had licence to alienate it to Thomas Mildmay, esq; whose son, sir Thomas, was lord in the 9th of Elizabeth, and conveyed it, in the 23d of that queen, to Francis Gawdy, afterwards chief-justice of the common-pleas, and so came to sir Robert Rich, who conveyed it to sir John Peyton, in which family it was in the 18th of James I. After this it was purchased by Dr. John Warner, who died bishop of Rochester in 1666, and was settled by his trustees to pay certain annuities to 20 poor widows of the clergy in his hospital at Bromley, &c. John Lee Warner, D. D. archdeacon of Rochester, son of Thomas Lee, of London, gent. by Anne his wife, sister to the bishop, was his heir, and lord in 1630, and in that family it continues, Henry Lee Warner, esq. of Walsingham, being the present lord.

Here is a good decoy belonging to this manor. The leet is in the lord of the hundred, fee, with Tottenhill, 2s.

John Fincham, &c. in the 16th of Richard II. aliened to the prior of Ely a messuage, land, &c. here, in Fodderston, and Shouldham-thorpe, and lands in Fincham, Werham, and Shouldham.

THE PRIORY. In this town was a priory founded by William de Warren, in the reign of Richard I. who died in the 11th of king John, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the Holy Crofs, and St. John the Evangelist, for canons of the order of St. Augustine. Little or no remains of it are visible at this time; it was in a close,

a close, opposite to the castle of Wormegay, on the left hand as you enter into the town, the priory being on the north side, the castle on the south.—A small farm-house, belonging to Mr. James Smith of Norwich, now stands on the scite of the priory.

The first prior occurs anno 18 Henry III. and in 1383; the canon of Wormegay was appointed by the bishop of Norwich, the election of the convent being set aside as insufficient.

In 1461, this convent granted licence to the bishop of Norwich to present, pleading great *poverty*; and in the year 1468, this priory was annexed, with all its members and appurtenances, to that of Pentney, an adjoining priory.

John Neville, earl of Northumberland, and his countess, giving their consent, to which earl Edward IV. (on the attainder of William lord viscount Beaumont, lord of this manor, and patron of this priory, as heir to the lords Bardolph) had granted this manor, &c. the convent of Pentney engaging to *pray* (as that of Wormegay had done) for ever for the soul of this earl, &c. patrons of this priory.—On the dissolution of Pentney priory, the lands, &c. of that house came to the crown, and amongst them those which belonged formerly to this priory; and in the 29th of Henry VIII. the scite of this priory, with the house, garden, &c. meadows, and pastures belonging to it, were leased out February 14. in the said year, to Thomas earl of Rutland, by the court of augmentations, &c. for 21 years, and were farmed under the said earl by John Dethick, for 21l. per ann.—Edward VI. in his 4th year, 11th of April, gave the scite of the priory of Wormegay, and manor, together with the rectory, which was appropriated thereto, to

Thomas

Thomas Thirlby, bishop of Norwich; but Edmund Scambler, who was made bishop of Norwich in the 27th of Elizabeth, and doing, as Sir Henry Spelman observes, "as much as well he might to impoverish his church," made a lease of most of the manors and lands thereof, and amongst them of the lands belonging to this priory, and the nunnery of Blackburgh adjoining, to queen Elizabeth for 80 years, at the lowest rent he might, which bishop Godwin, in like cases, termeth *sacrilege*; after this it came to the see of Norwich again.

The temporalities of the prior of Wormegay, in the said town, were, in 1428, taxed at 6l. 9s. His spiritualities for the church at the said time were taxed at six marks and an half. Peter-pence, 8d.

The sum of the spiritualities amounted then to 19l. excepting the rectory of East Tuddenham; and the sum of the temporalities to 37l. 8s. 6d.

At the dissolution, this priory, annexed to (and together with) Pentney, was valued, as Speed, at 205l. 18s. 8d.—The clear value 170l. 4s. 9d. farthing as Dugdale.

Several manors and lands, &c. were granted and confirmed to the prior and convent, which we think unnecessary to particularise at this distant period of time.

The following churches were in this house:

1. Wormegay, appropriated to it on the foundation of the priory.

2. East

2. East Tuddenham, in Forehoe, granted in the 15th of king John, and appropriated to them in the year 1339; here was a vicarage then, settled in the patronage of the said priory.

3. A mediety of the church of Fordham in this hundred, to which they presented in 1306; this was appropriated to them the last day of February, 1346.

4. Westbrigg and Tottenhill, also in this hundred, appropriated to the priory July 18th, 1416, given them by Thomas Beaufort, earl of Dorset, on condition they supply it by one of their canons, or to find a sufficient chaplain.

A modern author calls this a cell to Pentney; and Stephens says that neither the Monasticon, nor any other that he hath met with, gives us the least account of this monastery, whose name he only met with in Sir Henry Spelman's History of Sacrilege.

The church of Wormegay is dedicated to St. Michael. It is an ancient single building, of carr-stone, flint, &c. covered with reed; at the west end of the nave is an ancient font; on the basons are eight shields, now defaced; at the end of the south wall, near to the screen, has been an altar; the basin for the holy water is still remaining. The tower at the west end of the nave is chiefly of carr-stone, in which hangs one bell; and the chancel is covered with Holland gutter-tiles.

This church stands nearly a mile east of the present village, (which, says Mr. Parkin, is now a very mean one) in the fields by itself. It was (as has been observed) appropriated to the priory, and afterwards to that of Pentney, on the union of the two priories;

at the dissolution it came to the crown, and was given by Edward VI. in his fourth year, to the bishop of Norwich and his successors for ever, and is leased out at this time by the said bishop.

In 1603, we find that there were 107 communicants; and the stipend was 6l. per ann. but bishop Reynolds, upon the renewal of the lease of the impropriate rectory, expressly reserved an augmentation for the curate of 20l. per ann.

In the 15th of queen Elizabeth, 40s. per ann. was paid to the serving curate here, out of the lands belonging to the priory of Pentney, by the queen's receiver general, from the augmentation office, and is said to be a perpetual grant.

Wormegay is environed with water and low grounds, fens and marshes; the chief and most safe entrance is by a cause-way on the west side, where, on the right hand, stood formerly a castle. Here the Bardolphs lived and resided at times, being the head, or scite, of the barony of Wormegay. The manor house, now occupied by the tenant, stands east of the town, and north of the church. It has had a small park, in which are some lofty trees. The navigable river Nar runs close by here, and has a staith for landing coals, brick, lime, &c.

In 1742 the Rev. Thomas Pigge was presented to this curacy by the bishop of Norwich, p. j. on whose resignation the Rev. William Winder was licensed, July 12th, 1771.

Wire, says the reverend continuator of an *essay*, is name of a river in Lancashire; hence Werhale in Cheshire, Worlingham in Suffolk and Surrey, and Wermelai,

Wermelai, now called Wormley, in Hertfordshire, also Wermenhala, now Wormhale, in Bucks.

WRETTON, or WIRETON, from a stream of water running through it. This town is not mentioned in the book of Doomsday, being accounted for under the manor of Cavenham, Wiron-Hall, &c. in Wereham, which were in, and had their scite in Wereham; and there being no capital lordship that had its scite in this town, is the cause of that omission.

In the 24th of Henry III. there was a suit carried on by the prior of Shouldham, whose manor of Cavenham extended therein, the prior claiming *merchettam* (for a marriage) from William de la Ferte of this town, who proving himself a freeman, and no villain, was acquitted.—Merchetta was the fine of a mark, paid to be free from a savage custom in many manors, for the lord to lie the *first night* with the bride of his tenant*. The lord of Cavenham, and the lord of Wiron-hall and Wereham-hall, are lords here.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, has a nave and a south aisle, the nave covered with reed, and is about 54 feet long, the aisle with lead, and together are about 28 feet broad; at the west end of the nave is a low four-square tower, and a small shaft; herein are two bells.

At the east end of the south aisle lies a marble grave-stone, with part of a brass plate,—*Orate p. a' ia. Johs. Bl. - - -*. The chancel is about 23 feet long, and seventeen broad, covered with reed; against the east wall, a large pedestal of stone, for *imago principalis*.

X

A moiety

* This absurd custom still prevails in some part of Scotland.

A moiety of the patronage of this church was in the lord of Wiron-Hall, and given by Peter de Narford, by deed without date, to West Dereham abbey; the other moiety was granted to the said abbey by Gilbert Buxi, of Boughton, and Hugh Buxi, and appropriated to the convent by the bishop of Norwich, in his sixth year, 1263.

On this appropriation it was served by one of the canons of that abbey; on the dissolution it came to the crown, and was granted, with the rectory-house and glebe lands, &c. September 14th, in the eighteenth of Elizabeth, to Adam Bland. In the reign of Edward I. here was a rectory-house, and 10 acres of glebe. From Bland it came to Mundeford, Life, and Warren, and so to Roger Pratt, Esq; the late impropriator, who, by settling certain lands on this church, and that of Wereham, procured queen Ann's bounty, so that both these curacies are now, together, worth 70l. per ann. and Edward Pratt, esq. of West Risdon, is patron.

The spiritualities of West Dereham, for this church, were six marks per ann.

Nicholas Lovel, esq; of Wretton, was buried in this church, 1453.

Mrs. Forby, widow, about 1710, gave in land 4l. 10s. per ann. for the poor; and there is other land for the said use of 1l. 6s. per ann. also 5s. per ann.

The learned Roger Gale, esq; concludes, that as there are an infinite number of ancient villages whose names are not mentioned in the book of Doomsday,
" That only those are mentioned who held either of
" the king, or of the church, who also held of the
" king

" king in capite; and that those lands which were
" held by the English, who were not in arms, or by
" their council acted against king William, were not
" accounted for, or assed in that book."

But we take this not to be the real case; those townships which are not mentioned, or accounted for in the aforesaid survey, stand charged in some manor held of the king, or other lord, in some adjoining town, and so extending into these towns that are not mentioned. As for example; this township of Wretton, having the scite of no manor in it, is not mentioned, but stands charged and assed under the manors of Werham-hall, and Wiron-hall, the scite of both these lordships being in Werham, and also under Cavenham manor, in Werham. It is certain that all lands, both of the laity and clergy, were at the survey held of the king, directly in capite; and no land whatever, or township, was excepted from the account then taken; and from the assessment then made, all were held under the Conqueror by military services, agreeable to its quantity and quality; and since those towns that are not mentioned in Doomsday (not having any manor in them) are yet accounted for in the towns where their manors stood, and there assed, it would have been improper to repeat, and charge again, what had been so properly and justly accounted for where their scite was.

The Rev. Jermyn Pratt was presented to this curacy, with Werham, in 1746.



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